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THE

MONIKINS.

A TALE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE SPY," "THE PILOT," &c.

[Cooper, James Fenimore]

"Then thou knewest her?" said the knight.
"Not I," answered the squire; "but the person who told me the story said it was so true and certain, that if I should chance to tell it again, I might affirm upon oath, that I had seen it with my own eyes."

Don Quixote.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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THE MONIKINS.

CHAPTER I.

BETTER AND BETTER—A HIGHER FLIGHT OF REASON—MORE OBVIOUS TRUTHS, DEEPER PHILOSOPHY, AND FACTS THAT EVEN AN OSTRICH MIGHT DIGEST.

"I GLADLY quit what I fear some present may have considered the personal part of my lecture," resumed Dr. Reasono, "to turn to those portions of the theme that should possess a common interest, awaken common pride, and excite common felicitations. I now propose to say a few words on that part of our natural philosophy which is connected with the planetary system, the monikin location,—and, as a consequence from both, the creation of the world."

" Although dying with impatience to be enlightened on all these interesting points, you will grant me leave to inquire, *en passant*, Dr. Reasono, if your *savans* receive the Mosaic account of the creation or not."

" As far as it corroborates our own system, sir, and no farther. There would be a manifest inconsistency in our giving an antagonist validity to any hostile theory, let it come from Moses or Aaron; as one of your native good sense and subsequent cultivation will readily perceive."

" Permit me to intimate, Dr. Reasono, that the distinction your philosophers take in this matter is directly opposed to a very arbitrary canon in the law of evidence, which dictates the necessity of repudiating the whole of a witness's testimony when we repudiate a part."

" That may be a human, but it is not a monikin, distinction. So far from admitting the soundness of the principle, we hold that no monikin is ever wholly right, or that he will be wholly right, so long as he remain in the

least under the influence of matter; and we therefore winnow the false from the true, rejecting the former as worse than useless, while we take the latter as the nutriment of facts."

"I now repeat my apologies for so often interrupting you, venerable and learned sir; and I entreat you will not waste another moment in replying to my interrogatories, but proceed at once to an explanation of your planetary system, or of any other little thing it may suit your convenience to mention. When one listens to a real philosopher, one is certain to learn something that is either useful or agreeable, let the subject be what it may."

"By the monikin philosophy, gentlemen," continued Dr. Reasono, "we divide the great component parts of this earth into land and water. These two principles we term the *primary* elements. Human philosophy has added air and fire to the list; but these we reject either entirely, or admit them only as *secondary* elements. That neither air nor fire

is a *primary* element, may be proved by experiment. Thus, air can be formed, in the quality of gases; can be rendered pure or foul; is dependent on evaporation, being no more than ordinary matter in a state of high rarefaction. Fire has no independent existence; requires fuel for its support, and is evidently a property that is derived from the combinations of other principles. Thus, by putting two or more billets of wood together, by rapid friction you produce fire. Abstract the air suddenly, and your fire becomes extinct; abstract the wood, and you have the same result. From these two experiments it is shown that fire has no independent existence, and therefore is not an element. On the other hand, take a billet of wood and let it be completely saturated with water: the wood acquires a new property, (as also by the application of fire, which converts it into ashes and air,) for its specific gravity is increased, it becomes less inflammable, emits vapour more

readily, and yields less readily to the blow of the axe. Place the same billet under a powerful screw, and a vessel beneath. Compress the billet, and by a sufficient application of force, you will have the wood, perfectly dry, left beneath the screw, and the vessel will contain water. Thus is it shown that land (all vegetable matter being no more than fungi of the earth) is a *primary* element, and that water is also a *primary* element; while air and fire are not.

"Having established the elements, I shall, for brevity's sake, suppose the world created. In the beginning, the orb was placed in vacuum, stationary, and with its axis perpendicular to the plane of what is now called its orbit. Its only revolution was the diurnal."

"And the changes of the seasons?"

"Had not yet taken place. The days and nights were equal; there were no eclipses; the same stars were always visible. This state of the earth is supposed, from certain geological

proofs, to have continued about a thousand years, during which time the struggle between mind and matter was solely confined to quadrupeds. Man is thought to have made his appearance, so far as our documents go to establish the fact, about the year of the world one thousand and three. About this period, too, it is supposed that fire was generated by the friction of the earth's axis, while making the diurnal movement; or, as some imagine, by the friction of the periphery of the orb, rubbing against vacuum at the rate of so many thousand miles in a minute. The fire penetrating the crust, soon got access to the bodies of water that fill the cavities of the earth. From this time is to be dated the existence of a new and most important agent in the terrestrial phenomena, called *steam*. Vegetation now began to appear, as the earth received warmth from within——"

"Pray, sir, may I ask in what manner all the animals existed previously?"

"By feeding on each other. The strong devoured the weak, until the most diminutive of the animalculæ was reached, when these turned on their persecutors, and, profiting by their insignificance, commenced devouring the strongest. You find daily parallels to this phenomenon in the history of man. He who, by his energy and force, has triumphed over his equals, is frequently the prey of the insignificant and vile. You doubtless know that the polar regions, even in the original attitude of the earth, owing to their receiving the rays of the sun obliquely, must have possessed a less genial climate than the parts of the orb that lie between the arctic and the antarctic circles. This was a wise provision of Providence to prevent a premature occupation of those chosen regions, or to cause them to be left uninhabited, until mind has so far mastered matter, as to have brought into existence the first monikin."

"May I venture to ask to what epoch you

refer the appearance of the first of your species?"

"To the Monikin epocha, beyond a doubt, sir—but if you mean to ask in what year of the world this event took place, I should answer, about the year 4017. It is true, that certain of our writers affect to think that divers men were approaching to the sublimation of the monikin mind, previously to this period; but the better opinion is, that these cases were no more than what are termed premonitory. Thus, Socrates, Plato, Confucius, Aristotle, Euclid, Zeno, Diogenes, and Seneca, were merely so many admonishing types of the future condition of man, indicating their near approach to the monikin, or to the final translation."

"And Epicurus——"

"Was an exaggeration of the material principle, that denoted the retrogression of a large portion of the race towards brutality and matter. These phenomena are still of daily occurrence."

"Do you then hold the opinion, for instance, Dr. Reasono, that Socrates is now a monikin philosopher, with his brain unravelled and rendered logically consecutive, and that Epicurus is transformed perchance into a hippopotamus or a rhinoceros, with tusks, horns, and hide?"

"You quite mistake our dogmas, Sir John. We do not believe in transmigration in the individual at all, but in the transmigration of classes. Thus, we hold that, whenever a given generation of men, in a peculiar state of society, attain, in the aggregate, a certain degree of moral improvement, or *mentality*, as we term it in the schools, there is an admixture of their qualities in masses, some believe by scores, others think by hundreds, and others again pretend by thousands; and if it is found, by the analysis that is regularly instituted by nature, that the proportions are just, the material is consigned to the monikin birth; if not, it is repudiated, and either kneaded anew for another human experiment, or consigned to the

vast stores of dormant matter. Thus all individuality, so far as it is connected with the past, is lost."

"But, sir, existing facts contradict one of the most important of your propositions: while you admit that a want of a change in the seasons would be a consequence of the perpendicularity of the earth's axis to the plane of its present orbit, this change in the seasons is a matter not to be denied. Flesh and blood testify against you here, no less than reason."

"I spoke of things as they were, sir, previously to the birth of the monikinia; since which time a great, salutary, harmonious, and contemplated alteration has occurred. Nature had reserved the polar regions for the new species, with divers obvious and benevolent purposes. It was rendered uninhabitable by the obliquity of the sun's rays; and though matter, in the shape of mastodons and whales, with an instinct of its antagonist destination, had frequently invaded their precincts, it was

only to leave the remains of the first embedded in fields of ice, memorials of the uselessness of struggling against destiny, and to furnish proofs of the same great truth in the instance of the others; who, if they *did* enter the polar basins as masters of the great deep, either left their bones there, or returned in the same characters as they went. From the appearance of animal nature on the earth, down to the period when the monikin race arose, the regions in question were not only uninhabited, but virtually uninhabitable. When, however, Nature, always wary, wise, beneficent, and never to be thwarted, had prepared the way, those phenomena were exhibited that cleared the road for the new species. I have alluded to the internal struggle between fire and water, and to their progeny, steam. This new agent was now required to act. A moment's attention to the manner in which the next great step in the progress of civilization was made, will show with what foresight and calculation our common mother

had established her laws. The earth is flattened at the poles, as is well imagined by some of the human philosophers, in consequence of its diurnal movement commencing while the ball was still in a state of fusion, which naturally threw off a portion of the unkneaded matter towards the periphery. This was not done without the design of accomplishing a desired end. The matter that was thus accumulated at the equator, was necessarily abstracted from other parts; and, in this manner, the crust of the globe became thinnest at the poles. When a sufficiency of steam had been generated in the centre of the ball, a safety-valve was evidently necessary to prevent a total disruption. As there was no other machinist than Nature, she worked with her own tools, and agreeably to her own established laws. The thinnest portions of the crust opportunely yielded to prevent a catastrophe, when the superfluous and heated vapour escaped, in a right line with the earth's axis, into vacuum. This phenomenon

occurred, as nearly as we have been able to ascertain, about the year 700 before the Christian era commenced, or some two centuries previously to the birth of the first monikins."

"And why so early, may I presume to inquire, doctor?"

"Simply that there might be time for the new climate to melt the ice that had accumulated about the islands and continents of that region, (for it was only at the southern extremity of the earth that the explosion had taken place,) in the course of so many centuries. Two hundred and seventy years of the active and unremitted agency of steam sufficed for this end; since the accomplishment of which the monikin race has been in the undisturbed enjoyment of the whole territory, together with its blessed fruits."

"Am I to understand," asked Captain Poke, with more interest than he had before manifested in the philosopher's lecture, "that your folks, when at hum', live to the south'ard of the

belt of ice that we mariners always fall in with somewhere about the parallel of 77° south latitude?"

"Precisely so.—Alas! that we should, this day, be so far from those regions of peace, delight, intelligence, and salubrity! But the will of Providence be done! — doubtless, there is a wise motive for our captivity and sufferings, which may yet lead to the further glory of the monikin race!"

"Will you have the kindness to proceed with your explanations, doctor? If you deny the annual revolution of the earth, in what manner do you account for the changes of the seasons, and other astronomical phenomena, such as the eclipses which so frequently occur?"

"You remind me that the subject is not yet exhausted," the philosopher hurriedly rejoined, hastily and covertly dashing a tear from his eye. "Prosperity produced some of its usual effects among the founders of our species. For

a few centuries, they went on multiplying in numbers, elongating and rendering still more consecutive their *caudæ*, improving in knowledge and the arts, until some spirits, more audacious than the rest, became restive under the slow march of events, which led them towards perfection at a rate ill suited to their fiery impatience. At this time, the mechanic arts were at the highest pitch of perfection amongst us,—we have since, in a great measure, abandoned them, as unsuited to, and unnecessary for, an advanced state of civilization,—we wore clothes, constructed canals, and effected other works that were greatly esteemed among the species from which we had emigrated. At this time, also, the whole monikin family lived together as one people, enjoyed the same laws, and pursued the same objects. But a political sect arose in the region, under the direction of misguided and hot-headed leaders, who brought down upon us the just judgment of Providence, and a multitude of evils that

it will require ages to remedy. This sect soon had recourse to religious fanaticism and philosophical sophisms to attain its ends. It grew rapidly in power and numbers; for we monikins, like men, as I have had occasion to observe, are seekers of novelties. At last it proceeded to absolute overt acts of treason against the laws of Providence itself. The first violent demonstration of its madness and folly was setting up the doctrine that injustice had been done the monikin race, by causing the safety-valve of the world to be opened within their region. Although we were manifestly indebted to this very circumstance for the benignity of our climate, the value of our possessions, the general healthfulness of our families—nay, for our separate existence itself, as an independent species, yet did these excited and ill-judging wretches absolutely wage war upon the most benevolent and the most unequivocal friend they had. Specious premises led to theories, theories to declamations, de-

clamation to combination, combination to denunciation, and denunciation to open hostilities. The matter in dispute was debated for two generations, when the necessary degree of madness having been excited, the leaders of the party, who by this time had worked themselves, through their hobby, into the general control of the monikin affairs, called a meeting of all their partisans, and passed certain resolutions, which will never be blotted from the monikin memory, so fatal were their consequences—so ruinous, for a time, their effects! They were conceived in the following terms:—

"'At a full and overflowing meeting of the most monikinized of the monikin race, holden at the house of Peleg Pat, (we still used the human appellations at that epoch,) in the year of the world 3007, and of the monikin era 317, Plausible Shout was called to the chair, and Ready Quill was named secretary.

"'After several excellent and eloquent ad-

dresses from all present, it was unanimously resolved as follows, viz. :

" ' That steam is a curse, and not a blessing; and that it deserves to be denounced by all patriotic and true monikins.

" ' That we deem it the height of oppression and injustice in Nature, that she has placed the great safety-valve of the world within the lawful limits of the monikin territories.

" ' That the said safety-valve ought to be removed forthwith; and that it shall be so removed, peaceably if it can, forcibly if it must.

" ' That we cordially approve of the sentiments of John Jaw, our present estimable chief magistrate, the incorruptible partisan, the undaunted friend of his friends, the uncompromising enemy of steam, and the sound, pure, orthodox, and true monikin.

" ' That we recommend the said Jaw to the confidence of all monikins.

" ' That we call upon the country to sustain

us in our great, holy, and glorious design, pledging ourselves, posterity, the bones of our ancestors, and all who have gone before or who may come after us, to the faithful execution of our intentions.

" ' Signed,

" ' PLAUSIBLE SHOUT, Chairman.

" ' READY QUILL, Secretary.'

" No sooner were these resolutions promulgated, (for instead of being passed at a full meeting, it is now understood they were drawn up between Messrs. Shout and Quill, under the private dictation of Mr. Jaw,) than the public mind began seriously to meditate proceeding to extremities. That perfection in the mechanic arts which had hitherto formed our pride and boast, now proved to be our greatest enemy. It is thought that the leaders of this ill-directed party meant, in truth, to confine themselves to certain electioneering effects; but who can stay the torrent or avert the current of pre-

judice! The stream was setting against steam; the whole invention of the species was put in motion; and in one year from the passage of the resolutions I have recited, mountains were transported, endless piles of rocks were thrown into the gulf, arches were constructed, and the hole of the safety-valve was hermetically sealed. You will form some idea of the waste of intelligence and energy on this occasion, when I add, that it was found, by actual observation, that this artificial portion of the earth was thicker, stronger, and more likely to be durable than the natural. So far did infatuation lead the victims, that they actually caused the whole region to be sounded, and, having ascertained the precise locality of the thinnest portion of the crust, John Jaw, and all the most zealous of his followers, removed to the spot, where they established the seat of their government in triumph. All this time Nature rested upon her arms, in the quiet of conscious force. It was not long, however, before our ancestors

began to perceive the consequences of their act, in the increase of the cold, in the scarcity of fruits, and in the rapid augmentation of the ice. The monikin enthusiasm is easily awakened in favour of any plausible theory, but it invariably yields to physical pressure. No doubt the human race, better furnished with the material of physical resistance, does not exhibit so much of this weakness, but——"

"Do not flatter us with the exception, doctor. I find so many points of resemblance between us, that I really begin to think we must have had the same origin; and if you would only admit that man is of the secondary formation, and the monikins of the primary, I would accept the whole of your philosophy without a moment's delay."

"As such an admission would be contrary to both fact and doctrine, I trust, my dear sir, you will see the utter impossibility of a professor in the University of Leaphigh making the concession even in this remote part of the world.

—As I was about to observe, the people began to betray uneasiness at the increasing and constant inclemency of the weather; and Mr. John Jaw found it necessary to stimulate their passions by a new developement of his principles. His friends and partisans were all assembled in the great square of the new capital, and the following resolutions were, to use the language of a handbill that is still preserved in the archives of the Leaphigh Historical Society, (for it would seem they were printed before they were passed,) 'unanimously, enthusiastically, and finally adopted,' viz.:

"'Resolved, That this meeting has the utmost contempt for steam.

"'Resolved, That this meeting defies snow, and sterility, and all other natural disadvantages.

"'Resolved, That we will live for ever.

"'Resolved, That we will henceforward go naked, as the most effectual means of setting the frost at defiance.

"'Resolved, That we are now over the thinnest part of the earth's crust in the polar regions.

"'Resolved, That henceforth we will support no monikin for any public trust, who will not give a pledge to put out all his fires, and to dispense with cooking altogether.

"'Resolved, That we are animated by the true spirit of patriotism, reason, good faith, and firmness.

"'Resolved, That this meeting now adjourn *sine die*.'

"We are told that the last resolution was just carried by acclamation, when Nature arose in her might, and took ample vengeance for all her wrongs. The great boiler of the earth burst with a tremendous explosion, carrying away, as the thinnest part of the workmanship, not only Mr. John Jaw and all his partisans, but forty thousand square miles of territory. The last that was seen of them was about thirty seconds after the occurrence of the explosion, when the whole mass disappeared near the

northern horizon, going at a rate a little surpassing that of a cannon ball which has just left its gun."

"King!" exclaimed Noah; "that is what we sailors call, to cut and run."

"Was nothing ever heard of Mr. Jaw and his companions, my good doctor?"

"Nothing that could be depended on. Some of our naturalists assume that the monkeys which frequent the other parts of the earth are their descendants, who, stunned by the shock, have lost their reasoning powers, while, at the same time, they show glimmerings of their origin. This is, in truth, the better opinion of our *savans;* and it is usual with us to distinguish all the human species of monkeys by the name of "the lost monikins." Since my captivity, chance has thrown me in the way of several of these animals, who were equally under the control of the cruel Savoyards; and in conversing with them, in order to inquire into their traditions and to trace the analogies

of language, I have been led to think there is some foundation for the opinion. Of this, however, hereafter."

"Pray, Dr. Reasono, what became of the forty thousand square miles of territory?"

"Of that we have a better account; for one of our vessels, which was far to the northward, on an exploring expedition, fell in with it in longitude 2° from Leaphigh, latitude 6° S., and by her means it was ascertained that divers islands had been already formed by falling fragments; and, judging from the direction of the main body when last seen, the fertility of that part of the world, and various geological proofs, we hold that the great western Archipelago is the deposit of the remainder."

"And the monikin region, sir,—what was the consequence of this phenomenon to that part of the world?"

"Awful—sublime—various—and durable! The more important, or the personal consequences, shall be mentioned first. Fully one-

third of the monikin species was scalded to death. A great many contracted asthmas and other diseases of the lungs, by inhaling steam. Most of the bridges were swept away by the sudden melting of the snows, and large stores of provisions were spoilt by the unexpected appearance and violent character of the thaw. These may be enumerated among the unpleasant consequences. Among the pleasant, we esteem a final and agreeable melioration of the climate, which regained most of its ancient character, and a rapid and distinct elongation of our *caudæ*, by a sudden acquisition of wisdom.

"The secondary, or the terrestrial consequences, were as follow:—By the suddenness and force with which so much steam rushed into space, finding its outlet several degrees from the pole, the earth was canted from its perpendicular attitude, and remained fixed with its axis having an inclination of 23° 27°° to the plane of its orbit. At the same time, the orb began to move in vacuum, and, restrained by

antagonist attractions, to perform what is called its annual revolution."

"I can very well understand, friend Reasono," observed Noah, "why the 'arth should heel under so sudden a flaw, though a well-ballasted ship would right again when the puff was over; but I cannot understand how a little steam leaking out at one end of a craft should set her a-going at the rate we are told this world travels."

"If the escape of the steam were constant, the diurnal motion giving it every moment a new position, the earth would not be propelled in its orbit, of a certainty, Captain Poke; but as, in fact, this escape of the steam has the character of pulsation, being periodical and regular, nature has ordained that it shall occur but once in the twenty-four hours, and this at such a time as to render its action uniform, and its impulsion always in the same direction. The principle on which the earth receives this impetus can be easily illustrated by a familiar

experiment. Take, for instance, a double-barrelled fowling-piece, load both barrels with extra quantities of powder, introduce a ball and *two* wads into each barrel, place the breech within $4\frac{628}{1000}$ inches of the abdomen, and take care to fire both barrels at once. In this case, the balls will give an example of the action of the forty thousand square miles of territory, and the person experimenting will not fail to imitate the impulsion, or the backward movement, of the earth."

"While I do not deny that such an experiment would be likely to set both parties in motion, friend Reasono, I do not see why the 'arth should not finally stop, as the man would be sure to do, after he had got through with hopping, and kicking, and swearing."

"The reason why the earth once set in motion in vacuum does not stop, can also be elucidated by experiment as follows:—Take Captain Noah Poke, provided as he is by nature with legs and the power of motion; lead him to the

Place Vendôme; cause him to pay three sous, which will gain him admission to the base of the column; let him ascend to the summit; thence let him leap with all his energy, in a direction at right angles with the shaft of the column, into the open air; and it will be found that, though the original impulsion would not probably impel the body more than ten or twelve feet, motion would continue until it had reached the earth.—Corollary: hence it is proved, that all bodies in which the *vis inertiæ* has been overcome, will continue in motion, until they come in contact with some power capable of stopping them."

"King!—Do you not think, Mr. Reasono, that the 'arth makes its circuit, as much owing to this said steam of yours shoving, as it were, always a little on one side, acting thereby in some fashion as a rudder, which causes her to keep waring, as we seamen call it, and as big crafts take more room than small ones in waring, why, she is compelled to run so many mil-

lions of miles before, as it might be, she comes up to the wind ag'in? Now, there is reason in such an idee; whereas, I never could reconcile it to my natur', that these little bits of stars should keep a craft like the 'arth in her course, with such a devil of a way on her, as we know in reason she must have, to run so far in a twelve-month. Why, the smallest yaw — and, for a hooker of her keel, a thousand miles wouldn't be a broader yaw than a hundred feet in a ship—the smallest yaw would send her aboard of the Jupiter, or the Marcury, when there would be a smashing of out-board work such as mortal never before witnessed!"

"We rather lean to the opinion of the efficacy of attraction, sir;—nor do I see that your proposition would at all obviate your own objection."

"Then, sir, I will just explain myself. Let us suppose there was a steamer with a hundred miles of keel; let us suppose the steam up, and the craft with a broad offing; let us suppose

her helm lashed hard a-port, and she going at the rate of ten thousand knots the hour, without bringing up or shortening sail for years at a time. Now, all this being admitted, what would be her course? Why, sir, any child could tell you, she would keep turning in a circle of some fifty or a hundred thousand miles in circumference; and such, it appears to me, it is much more rational to suppose is the natur' of the 'arth's traversing, than all this steering-small among stars and attractions."

"There is truly something very plausible, Captain Poke, in your suggestion; and I propose that you shall profit by the first occasion to lay your opinions on the subject, more at large, before the Academy of Leaphigh."

"With all my heart, doctor; for I hold that knowledge, like good liquor, is given to be passed round from one to another, and not to be gulped in a corner by any particular individle. And now I 'm throwing out hints of this natur', I will just intimate another, that

you may add to your next demonstration, by way of what you call a corollary:—which is this,—that is to say—if all you tell us about the bursting of the boiler and the polar kick be true, then is the 'arth the first steam-boat that was ever invented, and the boastings of the French, and the English, and the Spaniards, and the Italians, on this point, are no more than so much smoke."

"And of the Americans, too, Captain Poke," I ventured to observe.

"Why, Sir John, that is as it may happen. —I don't well see how Fulton could have stolen the idee, seeing that he did not know the Doctor, and most probably never heard of Leaphigh in his life."

We all smiled, even to the amiable Chatterissa, at the nicety of the navigator's distinctions; and the philosopher's lecture, in its more didactic form, being now virtually at an end, a long and desultory conversation took place, in which a multitude of ingenious questions were

put by Captain Poke and myself, and which were as cleverly answered by the Doctor and his friends.

At length, Dr. Reasono, who, philosopher as he was, and much as he loved science, had not given himself all this trouble without a view to what are called ulterior considerations, came out with a frank *exposé* of his wishes. Accident had apparently combined all the means for gratifying the burning desire I betrayed to be let into further details of the monikin polity, morals, philosophy, and all the other great social interests of the part of the world they inhabit. I was wealthy beyond bounds, and the equipment of a proper vessel would be an expenditure of no moment; both the Doctor and Lord Chatterino were good practical geographers, after they were once within the parallel of 77° south, and Captain Poke, according to his own account of himself, had passed half his life in poking about among the sterile and uninhabited islands of the frozen ocean. What

was there to prevent the most earnest wishes of all present from being gratified? The Captain was out of employment, and no doubt would be glad to get the command of a good tight sea-boat; the strangers pined for home, and it was my most ardent wish to increase my stake in society, by taking a further interest in monikins.

On this hint, I frankly made a proposal to the old sealer, to undertake the task of restoring these amiable and enlightened strangers to their own fire-sides and families. The Captain soon began to discover a little of his Stunin'tun propensity; for, the more I pressed the matter on him, the more readily he found objections. The several motives he urged for declining the proposal may be succinctly given as follows:—

It was true that he wanted employment, but then he wanted to see Stunin'tun too; he doubted whether monkeys would make good sailors; it was no joke to run in among the ice, and it might be still less of one to find our way back

again; he had seen the bodies of dead seals and bears that were frozen as hard as stone, and which might, for anything he knew, have lain in that state a hundred years, and, for his part, he should like to be buried when he was good for nothing else; how did he know these monikins might not catch the men, when they had once fairly got them in their country, and strip them, and make them throw summersets, as the Savoyards had compelled the Doctor, and even the Lady Chatterissa, to do?—he knew he should break his neck the very first flap-jack; if he were ten years younger, perhaps he should like the frolic; he did not believe the right sort of craft could be found in England, and, for his part, he liked sailing under the stars and stripes; he didn't know but he might go, if he had a crew of Stunin'tunners; he always knew how to get along with such people; he could scare one by threatening to tell his *marm* how he behaved, and bring another to reason by hinting that the gals would

shy him, if he wasn't more accommodating: then there might be no such place as Leaphigh, after all; or, if there was, he might never find it: as for wearing a bison-skin under the equator, it was quite out of the question, a human skin being a heavy load to carry in the calm latitudes; and finally, that he didn't exactly see what he was to get by it."

These objections were met, one by one, reversing the order in which they were made, and commencing with the last.

I offered a thousand pounds sterling as the reward. This proposal brought a gleam of satisfaction into Noah's eyes, though he shook his head, as if he thought it very little. It was then suggested that there was no doubt we should discover certain islands that were well stored with seals, and that I would waive all claims as owner, and that hereafter he might turn these discoveries to his own private account. At this bait he nibbled, and, at one time, I thought he was about to suffer

himself to be caught. But he remained obstinate. After trying all our united rhetoric, and doubling the amount of the pecuniary offer, Dr. Reasono luckily bethought him of the universal engine of human weakness, and the old sealer, who had resisted money—an influence of known efficacy at Stunin'tun—ambition, the secret of new sealing grounds, and all the ordinary inducements that might be thought to have weight with men of his class, was, in the end, hooked by his own vanity!

The philosopher cunningly expatiated on the pleasure there would be in reading a paper before the academy of Leaphigh, on the subject of the captain's peculiar views touching the earth's annual revolution, and of the virtue of sailing planets with their helms lashed hard-a-port, when all the dogmatical old navigator's scruples melted away like snow in a thaw.

CHAPTER II.

A CHAPTER OF PREPARATIONS—DISCRIMINATION IN CHARACTER — A TIGHT FIT, AND OTHER CONVENIENCES, WITH SOME JUDGMENT.

I SHALL pass lightly over the events of the succeeding month. During this time, the whole party was transferred to England, a proper ship had been bought and equipped, the family of strangers were put in quiet possession of their cabins, and I had made all my arrangements for being absent from England for the next two years. The vessel was a stout-built, comfortable ship of about three hundred tons burthen, and had been properly constructed to encounter the dangers of the ice. Her accommodations were suitably ar-

ranged to meet all the exigencies of both monikin and human wants, the apartments of the ladies being very properly separated from those of the gentlemen, and otherwise rendered decorous and commodious. The Lady Chatterissa very pleasantly called their private room the *gynecée*, which, as I afterwards ascertained, was a term for the women's apartments, obtained from the Greek, the monikins being quite as much addicted as we are ourselves, to showing their acquirements by the introduction of words from foreign tongues.

Noah showed great care in the selection of the ship's company, the service being known to be arduous, and the duties of a very responsible character. For this purpose, he made a journey expressly to Liverpool, (the ship lying in the Greenland Dock at London,) where he was fortunate enough to engage five Yankees, as many Englishmen, two Norwegians, and a Swede, all of whom had been accustomed to cruising as near the poles as

ordinary men ever succeed in reaching. He was also well suited in his cook and mates; but I observed that he had great difficulty in finding a cabin-boy to his mind. More than twenty applicants were rejected, some for the want of one qualification, and some for the want of another. As I was present at several examinations of different candidates for the office, I got a little insight into his manner of ascertaining their respective merits.

The invariable practice was, first, to place a bottle of rum and a pitcher of water before the lad, and to order him to try his hand at mixing a glass of grog. Four applicants were incontinently rejected for manifesting a natural inaptitude at hitting the *juste milieu*, in this important part of the duty of a cabin-boy. Most of the candidates, however, were reasonably expert in the art; and the captain soon came to the next requisite, which was, to say "Sir," in a tone, as Noah expressed it, somewhere between the snap of a steel-trap and

the mendicant whine of a beggar. Fourteen were rejected for deficiencies on this score, the captain remarking that most of them "were the sa'ciest blackguards" he had ever fallen in with. When he had, at length, found one who could mix a tumbler of grog and answer "Sir" to his liking, he proceeded to make experiments on their abilities in carrying a soup-tureen over a slushed plank; in wiping plates without a napkin, and without using their shirt-sleeves; in snuffing candles with their fingers; in making a soft bed with few materials besides boards; in mixing the various compounds of burgoo, lob-skous, and dough (which he affectedly pronounced *duff*); in fattening pigs on beef-bones, and ducks on the sweepings of the deck; in looking at molasses without licking their lips; and in various other similar accomplishments, which he maintained were as familiar to the children of Stunin'tun, as their singing-books and the ten commandments. The nineteenth candidate to my unin-

structed eyes seemed perfect; but Noah rejected him for the want of a quality that he declared was indispensable to the quiet of the ship. It appeared he was too bony about an essential part of his anatomy; a peculiarity that was very dangerous to a captain, as he himself was once so unfortunate as to put his great toe out of joint, by kicking one of these ill-formed youngsters with unpremeditated violence—a thing that was very apt to happen to a man in a hurry. Luckily, number twenty passed, and was immediately promoted to the vacant birth. The very next day the ship put to sea, in good condition, and with every prospect of a fortunate voyage.

I will here state that a general election occurred the week before we sailed; and I ran down to Householder and got myself returned, in order to protect the interests of those who had a natural right to look up to me for that small favour.

We discharged the pilot when we had the

Scilly Islands over the taffrail, and Mr. Poke took command of the vessel, in good earnest. Coming down channel, he had done little more than rummage about in the cabin, examine the lockers, and make his foot acquainted with the anatomy of poor Bob, as the cabin-boy was called; who, judging from the amount of the captain's practice, was admirably well suited for his station, in the great requisite of a kickee. But, the last hold of the land loosened by the departure of the pilot, our navigator came forth in his true colours, and showed the stuff of which he was really made. The first thing he did was to cause a pull to be made on every halyard, bowline, and brace in the ship; he then rattled off both mates, in order to show them (as he afterwards told me in confidence) that he was captain of his own vessel; gave the people to understand he did not like to speak twice on the same subject and on the same occasion, which he said was a privilege he very willingly left to congress-men and women; and then he

appeared satisfied with himself and all around him.

A week after we had taken our departure, I ventured to ask Captain Poke if it might not be well enough to take an observation, and to resort to some means in order to know where the ship was. Noah treated this idea with great disrespect. He could see no use in wearing out quadrants without any necessity for it. Our course was south, we knew, for we were bound to the south pole; all we had to do was to keep America on the starboard, and Africa on the larboard hand. To be sure, there was something to be said about the trades, and a little allowance to be made for currents, now and then; but he and the ship would get to be acquainted before long, and then all would go on like clockwork. A few days after this conversation, I was on deck just as day dawned, and to my surprise Noah, who was in his birth, called out to the mate, through the skylight, to let him know exactly how the land bore. No one

had yet seen any land; but at this summons we began to look about us, and sure enough there was an island dimly visible in the eastern board! Its position by compass was immediately communicated to the captain, who seemed well satisfied with the result. Renewing his admonition to the officer of the deck to take care and keep Africa on the larboard hand, he turned over in his bed to resume his nap.

I afterwards understood from the mates, that we had made a very capital fall upon the trades, and that we were getting on wonderfully well; though it was quite as great a mystery to them as it was to me how the captain could know where the ship was, for he had not touched his quadrant, except to wipe it with a silk handkerchief, since we left England. About a fortnight after we had passed the Cape de Verds, Noah came on deck in a great rage, and began to storm at the mate and the man at the wheel for not keeping the ship her course. To this the former answered with spirit, that the only

order he had received in a fortnight, was "to keep her jogging south, allowing for variation," and that she was heading at that moment according to orders. Hereupon Noah gave Bob, who happened to pass him just then, a smart application *à posteriori*, and swore "that the compass was as big a fool as the mate; that the ship was two points off her course; that south was hereaway, and not thereaway; that he knew by the feel of the wind that it had no northin' in it, and we had got it away on the quarter, whereas it ought to be for'ard of the beam; that we were running for Rio instead of Leaphigh, and that if we ever expected to get to the latter country, we must haul up on a good taut bowline." The mate, to my surprise, suddenly acquiesced, and immediately brought the ship by the wind. He afterwards told me, in a half whisper, that the second mate, having been sharpening some harpoons, had unwittingly left them much too close to the binnacle; and that, in fact, the magnet had been attracted by them,

so as to deceive the man at the wheel and himself, fully twenty degrees as to the real points of the compass. I must say this little occurrence greatly encouraged me, leaving no doubt about our eventual and safe arrival as far, at least, as the boundary of ice which separates the human from the monikin region. Profiting by this feeling of security, I now began to revive the intercourse with the strangers, which had been partially interrupted by the novel and disagreeable circumstances of a sea life.

The Lady Chatterissa and her companion, as is much the case with females at sea, rarely left the gynecée; but, as we drew near the equator, the philosopher and the young peer passed most of their time on deck, or aloft. Dr. Reasono and I spent half of the mild nights in discussing subjects connected with my future travels; and, as soon as we were well clear of the rain and the thunder and lightning of the calm latitudes, Captain Poke, Robert, and my-

self began to study the language of Leaphigh. The cabin-boy was included in this arrangement, Noah intimating we should find it convenient to take him on shore with us, since a wish to conceal my destination had induced me to bring no servant along. Luckily for us, the monikin ingenuity had greatly diminished the labour of the acquisition. The whole language was spoken and written on a system of decimals, which rendered it particularly easy, after the elementary principles were once acquired. Thus, unlike most human tongues, in which the rule usually forms the exception, no departure from its laws was ever allowed, under the penalty of the pillory. This provision, the captain protested, was the best rule of them all, and saved a vast deal of trouble; for, as he knew by experience, a man might be a perfect adept in the language of Stunin'tun, and then be laughed at in New York for his pains. The comprehensiveness of the tongue was also another great advantage; though, like all other

eminent advantages or excessive good, it was the next-door neighbour to as great an evil. Thus, as my Lord Chatterino obligingly explained, "*we-witch-it-me-cum*," means "Madam, I love you from the crown of my head to the tip of my tail; and as I love no other half as well, it would make me the happiest monikin on earth, if you would consent to become my wife, that we might be models of domestic propriety before all eyes, from this time henceforth and for ever." In short, it was the usual and the most solemn expression for asking in marriage; and, by the laws of the land, was binding on the proposer until as formally declined by the other party. But, unluckily, the word "we-switch-it-me-cum," means "Madam, I love you from the crown of my head to the tip of my tail; and, *if I did not love another better*, it would make me the happiest monikin on earth, if you would consent to become my wife, that we might be models of domestic propriety before all eyes, from this time henceforth

and for ever." Now this distinction, subtle and insignificant as it was to the eye and the ear, caused a vast deal of heart-burning and disappointment among the young people of Leaphigh. Several serious lawsuits had grown out of this cause, and two great political parties had taken root in the unfortunate mistake of a young monikin of quality, who happened to lisp, and who used the fatal word indiscreetly. That feud, however, was now happily appeased, having lasted only a century; but it would be wise, as we were all three bachelors, to take note of the distinction. Captain Poke said he thought, on the whole, he was sufficiently safe, as he was much accustomed to the use of the word "*switchel;*" but he thought it might be very well to go before some consul, as soon as the ship anchored, and enter a formal protest of our ignorance of all these niceties, lest some advantage should be taken of us by the reptiles of lawyers; that he in particular was not a bachelor, and that Miss Poke would be as furious as

a hurricane, if, by an accident, he should happen to forget himself. The matter was deferred for future deliberation.

About this time, too, I had some more interesting communications with Dr. Reasono, on the subject of the private histories of all the party of which he was the principal member. It would seem that the philosopher, though rich in learning, and the proprietor of one of the best developed *caudæ* in the entire monikin world, was poor in the more vulgar attributes of monikin wealth. While he bestowed freely, therefore, from the stores of his philosophy, and through the medium of the academy of Leaphigh, on all his fellows, he was obliged to seek an especial recipient for his surplus knowledge, in the shape of a pupil, in order to provide for the small remains of the animal that still lingered in his habits. Lord Chatterino, the orphan heritor of one of the noblest and wealthiest, as well as one of the most ancient houses of Leaphigh, had been put under his instruction at a

very tender age, as had my Lady Chatterissa under that of Mrs. Lynx, with very much the same objects. This young and accomplished pair had early distinguished each other, in monikin society, for their unusual graces of person, general attainments, mutual amiableness of disposition, harmony of thought, and soundness of principles. Everything was propitious to the gentle flame which was kindled in the vestal bosom of Chatterissa, and which was met by a passion so ardent, and so respectful, as that which glowed in the heart of young No. 8 purple. The friends of the respective parties, so soon as the budding sympathy between them was observed, in order to prevent the blight of wishes so appropriate, had called in the aid of the matrimonial surveyor-general of Leaphigh, an officer especially appointed by the king in council, whose duty it is to take cognizance of the proprieties of all engagements that are likely to assume a character as grave and durable as that of marriage. Dr. Reasono showed me the

certificate issued from the Marriage Department on this occasion, and which, in all his wanderings, he had contrived to conceal within the lining of the Spanish hat the Savoyards had compelled him to wear, and which he still preserved as a document that was absolutely indispensable on his return to Leaphigh; else he would never be permitted to travel afoot in company with two young people of birth and of good estates, who were of the different sexes. I translate the certificate, as literally as the poverty of the English language will allow.

"Extract from the Book of Fitness, Marriage Department, Leaphigh, season of nuts, day of brightness. Vol. 7243, p. 82.

"Lord Chatterino: Domains; 126,952¾ acres of land; meadow, arable and wood in just proportions.

"Lady Chatterissa: Domains; 115,999½ acres of land; mostly arable.

"Decree, as of record; it is found that the

lands of my Lady Chatterissa possess in quality what they want in quantity.

"Lord Chatterino: Birth; sixteen descents pure; one bastardy—four descents pure—a suspicion—one descent pure—a certainty.

"Lady Chatterissa: Birth; six descents pure—three bastardies—eleven descents pure—a certainty—a suspicion—unknown.

"Decree, as of record; it is found that the advantage is on the side of my Lord Chatterino, but the excellence of the estate on the other side is believed to equalize the parties.

"(Signed) No. 6 ermine. A true copy,

"(Countersigned) No. 1,000,003 ink-colour.

"Ordered, that the parties make the Journey of Trial together, under the charge of Socrates Reasono, Professor of Probabilities in the University of Leaphigh, L. L. D., F. U. D. G. E., and of Mrs. Vigilance Lynx, licensed duenna."

The Journey of Trial is so peculiar to the monikin system, and it might be so usefully in-

troduced into our own, that it may be well to explain it.

Whenever it is found that a young couple are agreeable (to use a peculiarly anglicized anglicism) in all the more essential requisites of matrimony, they are sent on the journey in question, under the care of prudent and experienced Mentors, with a view to ascertain how far they may be able to support, in each other's society, the ordinary vicissitudes of life. In the case of candidates of the more vulgar classes, there are official overseers, who usually drag them through a few mud-puddles, and then set them to work at some hard labour that is especially profitable to the public functionaries, who commonly get the greater part of their own year's work done in this manner. But, as the moral provisions of all laws are invented less for those who own 126,952¾ acres of land, divided into meadow, arable and wood, in just proportions, than for those whose virtues are more likely to yield to the fiery ordeal of

temptation, the rich and noble, after making a proper and useful manifestation of their compliance with the usage, ordinarily retire to their country-seats, where they pass the period of probation as agreeably as they can; taking care to cause to be inserted in the Leaphigh gazette, however, occasional extracts from their letters, describing the pains and hardships they are compelled to endure, for the consolation and edification of those who have neither birth nor country-houses. In a good many instances the journey is actually performed by proxy. But the case of my Lord Chatterino and my Lady Chatterissa formed an exception even to these exceptions. It was thought by the authorities, that the attachment of a pair so illustrious offered a good occasion to distinguish the Leaphigh impartiality; and, on the well-known principle which induces us sometimes to hang an earl in England, the young couple was commanded actually to go forth with all useful éclat, (secret orders being given to their guard-

ians to allow every possible indulgence, at the same time,) in order that the lieges might see and exult in the sternness and integrity of their rulers.

Dr. Reasono had accordingly taken his departure from the capital for the mountains, where he instructed his wards in a practical commentary on the ups and downs of life, by exposing them on the verges of precipices and in the delights of the most fertile valleys, (which, as he justly observed, was the greater danger of the two,) leading them over flinty paths, hungry and cold, in order to try their tempers; and setting up establishments with the most awkward peasants for servants, to ascertain the depth of Chatterissa's philosophy; with a variety of similar ingenious devices, that will readily suggest themselves to all who have any matrimonial experience, whether they live in palaces or cottages. When this part of the trial was successfully terminated, (the result having shown that the gentle Chatterissa was of

proof, so far as mere temper was concerned,) the whole party was ordered off to the barrier of ice, which divides the monikin from the human region, with a view to ascertain whether the warmth of their attachment was of a nature likely to resist the freezing collisions of the world. Here, unfortunately, (for the truth must be said,) an unlucky desire of Dr. Reasono, who was already F. U. D. G. E., but who had a devouring ambition to become also M. O. R. E., led him into the extreme imprudence of pushing through an opening, where he had formerly discovered an island, on an ancient expedition of the same sort; and on which island he thought he saw a rock, that formed a stratum of what he believed to be a portion of the 43,000 square miles that were discomposed by the great eruption of the earth's boiler. The philosopher foresaw a thousand interesting results that were dependent on the ascertaining of this important fact; for all the learning of Leaphigh having been exhausted, some five

hundred years before, in establishing the *greatest* distance to which any fragment had been thrown on that memorable occasion, great attention had latterly been given to the discovery of the *least* distance any fragment had been hurled. Perhaps I ought to speak tenderly of the consequences of a learned zeal, but it was entirely owing to this indiscretion that the whole party fell into the hands of certain mariners who were sealing on the northern shores of this very island, (friends and neighbours, as it afterwards appeared, of Captain Poke,) who remorselessly seized upon the travellers, and sold them to a homeward-bound Indiaman, which they afterwards fell in with, near the island of St. Helena—St. Helena! the tomb of him who is a model to all posterity, for the moderation of his desires, the simplicity of his character, a deep veneration for truth, profound reverence for justice, unwavering faith, and a clear appreciation of all the nobler virtues!

We came in sight of the island in question just as Dr. Reasono concluded his interesting narrative; and, turning to Captain Poke, I solemnly asked that discerning and shrewd seaman,—

"If he did not think the future would fully avenge itself of the past—if history would not do ample justice to the mighty dead—if certain names would not be consigned to everlasting infamy for chaining a hero to a rock; and whether *his* country, the land of freemen, would ever have disgraced itself by such an act of barbarism and vengeance?"

The Captain heard me very calmly; then deliberately helping himself to some tobacco, he replied:—

"Harkee, Sir John. At Stunin'tun, when we catch a ferocious crittur', we always put it in a cage. I'm no great mathematician, as I've often told you; but if my dog bites me once, I kick him—twice, I beat him—thrice, I chain him."

Alas! — there are minds so unfortunately constituted, that they have no sympathies with the sublime. All their tendencies are direct and common-sense-like. To such men, Napoleon appears little better than one who lived among his fellows more in the character of a tiger than in that of a man. They condemn him because he could not reduce his own sense of the attributes of greatness to the level of their homebred morality. Among this number, it would now seem, was to be classed Captain Noah Poke.

A wish to relate the manner in which Dr. Reasono and his companions fell into human hands, has caused me to overlook one or two matters of lighter moment, that should not, in justice to myself, however, be entirely omitted.

When we had been at sea two days, a very agreeable surprise for the monikin party was prepared and executed. I had caused a certain number of jackets and trousers to be made of the skins of different animals, such as dogs,

cats, sheep, tigers, leopards, hogs, &c. &c., with the proper accompaniments of snouts, hoofs, and claws; and when the ladies came on deck, after breakfast, their eyes were no longer offended by our rude innovations upon nature, but the whole crew were flying about the rigging, like so many animals of the different species named. Noah and myself appeared in the characters of sea-lions, the former having intimated that he understood the nature of that beast better than any other. Of course, this delicate attention was properly appreciated, and handsomely acknowledged.

I had taken the precaution to order imitation-skins to be made of cotton, which were worn in the low latitudes; and, as we got near the Falkland Islands, the real skins were resumed, with promptitude, and I might add, with pleasure.

Noah had, at first, raised some strong objections to the scheme, saying that he should not feel safe in a ship manned and officered

altogether by wild beasts; but, at last, he came to enjoy the thing as a good joke, never failing to hail the men, not by their names as formerly, but, as he expressed it himself, "by their natur's;" calling out "You cat, scatch this;" "You tiger, jump here;" "You hog, out of that dirt;" "You dog, scamper there;" "You horse, haul away;" and divers other similar conceits, that singularly tickled his fancy. The men themselves took up the ball, which they kept rolling, embellished with all sorts of nautical witticisms; their surname — they had but one, viz. Smith — being entirely dropped for the new appellations. Thus, the sounds of "Tom Dog," "Jack Cat," "Bill Tiger," "Sam Hog," and "Dick Horse," were flying about the decks, from morning to night.

Good humour is a great alleviater of bodily privation. From the time the ship lost sight of Staten Land, we had heavy weather, with hard gales from the southward and westward; and we had the utmost difficulty in making

our southing. Observations now became a very difficult matter, the sun being invisible for a week at a time. The marine instinct of Noah, at this crisis, was of the last importance to all on board. He gave us the cheering assurance, however, from time to time, that we were going south, although the mates declared that they knew not where the ship was, or whither she was running; neither sun, moon, nor star having now been seen for more than a week.

We had been in this state of anxiety and doubt for about a fortnight, when Captain Poke suddenly appeared on deck, and called for the cabin-boy, in his usual stentorian and no-denial voice, by the name of "You Bob Ape;" for the duty of Robert requiring that he should be much about the persons of the monikins, I had given him a dress of apes' skins, as a garb that would be more congenial to their tastes than that of a pig, or a weasel. Bob Ape was soon forthcoming, and, as he

approached his master, he quietly turned his face from him, receiving, as a matter of course, three or four smart admonitory hints, by way of letting him know that he was to be active in the performance of the duty on which he was about to be sent. On this occasion I made an odd discovery. Bob had profited by the dimensions of his lower garment, which had been cut for a much larger boy, (one of those who had broken down in essaying the true Doric of "Sir,") by stuffing it with an old union-jack —a sort of "sarvice," as he afterwards told me, that saved him a good deal of wear and tear of skin. To return to passing events, however: when Robert had been duly kicked, he turned about manfully, and demanded the captain's pleasure. He was told to bring the largest and the fairest pumpkin he could find from the private stores of Mr. Poke, that navigator never going to sea without a store of articles, that he termed "Stunin'tun food." The captain took the pumpkin between his

legs, and carefully peeled off the whole of its greenish-yellow coat, leaving it a globe of a whitish colour. He then asked for the tar-bucket; and, with his fingers, traced various marks, which were pretty accurate outlines of the different continents and the larger islands of the world. The region near the south pole, however, he left untouched; intimating that it contained certain sealing islands, which he considered pretty much as the private property of the Stunin'tunners.

"Now, Doctor," he said, pointing to the pumpkin, "there is the 'arth, and here is the tar-pot—just mark down the position of your island of Leaphigh, if you please, according to the best accounts your academy has of the matter. Make a dab, here and there, if you happen to know of any rocks and shoals. After that, you can lay down the island where you were captured, giving a general idee of its headlands and of the trending of the coast."

Dr. Reasono took a fidd, and with its end he

traced all the desired objects with great readiness and skill. Noah examined the work, and seemed satisfied that he had fallen into the hands of a monikin who had very correct notions of bearings and distances,—one, in short, on whose local knowledge it might do to run even in the night. He then projected the position of Stunin'tun—an occupation in which he took great delight, actually designing the meeting-house and the principal tavern; after which, the chart was laid aside.

CHAPTER III.

HOW TO STEER SMALL—HOW TO RUN THE GAUNTLET WITH A SHIP—HOW TO GO CLEAR—A NEW-FASHIONED SCREW-DOCK, AND CERTAIN MILE-STONES.

Captain Poke no longer deliberated about the course we were to steer. With his pumpkin for a chart, his instinct for an observation, and his nose for a compass, the sturdy sealer stood boldly to the southward; or, at least, he ran dead before a stiff gale, which, as he more than once affirmed, was as true a norther as if bred and born in the Canadas.

After coursing over the billows at a tremendous rate for a day and a night, the Captain appeared on deck, with a face of unusual meaning, and a mind loaded with its own reflections,

as was proved by his winking knowingly whenever he delivered himself of a sentiment; a habit that he had most probably contracted in early youth at Stunin'tun, for it seemed to be quite as inveterate as it was thorough-bred.

"We shall soon know, Sir John," he observed, hitching the sea-lion skin into symmetry, "whether it is sink or swim!"

"Pray explain yourself, Mr. Poke," cried I, in a little alarm. "If anything serious is to happen, you are bound to give timely notice."

"Death is always untimely to some crittur's, Sir John."

"Am I to understand, sir, that you mean to cast away the ship?"

"Not if I can help it, Sir John; but a craft that is foreordained to be a wrack, will be a wrack, in spite of reefing and bracing. Look ahead, you Dick Lion—ay, there you have it!"

There we had it, sure enough! I can only compare the scene which now met my eyes, to a sudden view of the range of the Oberland

Alps, when the spectator is unexpectedly placed on the verge of the precipice of the Weissenstein. There he would see before him a boundless barrier of glittering ice, broken into the glorious and fantastic forms of pinnacles, walls, and valleys; while here, we saw all that was sublime in such a view, heightened by the fearful action of the boisterous ocean, which beat upon the impassable boundary in ceaseless violence.

"Good God! Captain Poke," I exclaimed, the instant I caught a glimpse of the formidable danger that menaced us, "you surely do not mean to continue madly on, with such a warning of the consequences in plain view?"

"What would you have, Sir John? Leap-high lies on the t'other side of these ice-islands?"

"But you need not run the ship against them—why not go round them?"

"Because *they* go round the 'arth, in this latitude. Now is the time to speak, Sir John.

If we are bound to Leaphigh, we have the choice of three pretty desperate chances: to go through, to go under, or to go over that there ice. If we are to put back, there is not a moment to lose, for it may be even now questioned whether the ship would claw off, as we are, with a sending sea, and this heavy norther."

I believe I would, at that moment, gladly have given up all my social stakes to be well rid of the adventure. Still, pride, that substitute for so many virtues, the greatest and the most potent of all hypocrites, forbade my betraying the desire to retreat. I deliberated while the ship flew; and when, at length, I turned to the captain to suggest a doubt that might, at an earlier notice, possibly have changed the whole aspect of affairs, he bluntly told me it was too late. It was safer to proceed than to return, — if indeed return were possible, in the present state of the winds and waves. Making a merit of necessity, I braced my nerves to meet the crisis, and remained a

submissive, and, apparently, a calm spectator, of that which followed.

The Walrus (such was the name of our good ship) by this time was under easy canvass, and yet, urged by the gale, she rolled down with alarming velocity towards the boundary of foam, where the congealed and the still liquid element held their strife. The summits of the frozen crags waved in their glittering glory, in a way just to show that they were afloat; and I remembered to have heard that, at times, as their bases melted, entire mountains had been known to roll over, engulphing all that lay beneath. To me it seemed but a moment, before the ship was fairly overshadowed by these shining cliffs, which gently undulating, waved their frozen summits nearly a thousand feet in air. I looked at Noah in alarm, for it appeared to me that he intentionally precipitated us to destruction. But, just as I was about to remonstrate, he made a sign with his hand, and the vessel was brought to

the wind. Still, retreat was impossible; for the heave of the sea was too powerful, and the wind too heavy, to leave us any hope of long keeping the Walrus from drifting down upon the ragged peaks that bristled in icy glory to leeward. Nor did Captain Poke himself seem to entertain any such design; for, instead of hugging the gale, in order to haul off from the danger, he had caused the yards to be laid perfectly square, and we were now running, at a great rate, in a line nearly parallel with the frozen coast, though gradually setting upon it.

"Keep full! Let her go through water, you Jim Tiger," said the old sealer, whose professional ardour was fairly aroused. "Now, Sir John, unluckily, we are on the wrong side of these ice-mountains, for the plain reason, that Leaphigh lies to the south'ard of them. We must be stirring, therefore; for no craft that was ever launched could keep off these crags, with such a gale driving home upon them, for more than an hour or two. Our great concern,

at present, is to look out for a hole to run into."

"Why have you come so close to the danger, with your knowledge of the consequences?"

"To own the truth, Sir John, natur' is natur', and I'm getting to be a little near-sighted as I grow old; besides, I'm not so sartain that danger is the more dangerous, for taking a good steady look plump in its face."

Noah raised his hand, as much as to say he wished no answer, and both of us were immediately occupied in gazing anxiously to leeward. The ship was just opening a small cove in the ice, which might have been a cable's length in depth and a quarter of a mile across its outer, or the widest, part. Its form was regular, being that of a semicircle; but, at its bottom, the ice, instead of forming a continued barrier, like all the rest we had yet passed, was separated by a narrow opening, that was bounded on each side by a frowning precipice. The two bergs were evidently drawing nearer to

each other; but there was still a strait, or a watery gorge, between them, of some two hundred feet in width. As the ship plunged onward, the pass was opened, and we caught a glimpse of the distant view to leeward. It was merely a glimpse—the impatient Walrus allowing us but a moment for examination,—but it appeared sufficient for the purposes of the old sealer. We were already across the mouth of the cove, and within a cable's length of the ice again; for as we drew near what may be called the little cape, we found ourselves once more in closer proximity to the menacing mountain. It was a moment when all depended on decision; and, fortunately, our sealer, who was so wary and procrastinating in a bargain, never had occasion to make two drafts on his thoughts, in situations of emergency. As the ship cleared the promontory on the eastern side of the cove, we again opened a curvature of the ice, which gave a little more water to leeward. Tacking was impos-

sible, and the helm was put hard-a-weather. The bow of the Walrus fell off, and as she rose on the next wave, I thought its send would carry us helplessly down upon the berg. But the good craft, obedient to her rudder, whirled round, as if sensible herself of the danger, and, in less time than I had ever before known her to ware, we felt the wind on the other quarter. Our cats and dogs bestirred themselves, for there was no one there, Captain Noah Poke excepted, whose heart did not beat quick and hard. In much less time than usual, the yards were braced up on the other tack, and the ship was ploughing heavily against the sea, with her head to the westward. It is impossible to give one who has never been in such a situation, a just idea of the feverish impatience, the sinking and mounting of hope, as we watch the crab-like movement of a vessel, that is clawing off a lee shore, in a gale. In the present case, it being well known that the sea was fathomless, we had

run so near the danger that not even the smallest of its horrors was veiled from sight.

While the ship laboured along, I saw the clouds fast shutting in to windward, by the interposition of the promontory of ice,—the certain sign that our drift was rapid,—and, as we drew nearer to the point, breathing became laboured and even audible. Here Noah took a chew of tobacco,—I presume on the principle of enjoying a last quid, should the elements prove fatal; and then he went to the wheel in person.

"Let her go through the water," he said, easing the helm a little—"let her jog ahead, or we shall lose command of her in this devil's-pot!"

The vessel felt the slight change, and drew faster through the foaming brine, bringing us, with increasing velocity, nearer to the dreaded point. As we came up to the promontory, the water fell back in spray on the decks, and there was an instant when it appeared as

if the wind was about to desert us. Happily the ship had drawn so far ahead, as to feel the good effects of a slight change of current that was caused by the air rushing obliquely into the cove; and, as Noah, by easing the helm still more, had anticipated this alteration, which had been felt adversely but a moment before, while struggling to the eastward of the promontory, we drew swiftly past the icy cape, opening the cove handsomely, with the ship's head falling off fast towards the gorge.

There was but a minute, or two, for squaring the yards and obtaining the proper position to windward of the narrow strait. Instead of running down in a direct line for the latter, Captain Poke kept the ship on such a course as to lay it well open, before her head was pointed toward the passage. By this time, the two bergs had drawn so near each other as actually to form an arch across its mouth; and this too, at a part so low as to render it questionable whether there was suffi-

cient elevation to permit the Walrus to pass beneath. But retreat was impossible, the gale urging the ship furiously onward. The width of the passage was now but little more than a hundred feet, and it actually required the nicest steerage to keep our yard-arms clear of the opposite precipices, as the vessel dashed, with foaming bows, into the gorge. The wind drew through the opening with tremendous violence, fairly howling, as if in delight at discovering a passage by which it might continue its furious career. We may have been aided by the sucking of the wind and the waves, both of which were irresistibly drawn towards the pass, or it is quite probable that the skill of Captain Poke did us good service, on this awful occasion; but, owing to the one or the other, or to the two causes united, the Walrus shot into the gorge so accurately as to avoid touching either of the lateral margins of the ice. We were not so fortunate, however, with the loftier spars;

for, scarcely was the vessel beneath the arch, when she lifted on a swell, and her main-top-gallant-mast snapped off in the cap. The ice groaned and cracked over our heads; and large fragments fell both ahead and astern of us, several of them even tumbling upon our decks. One large piece came down within an inch of the extremity of Dr. Reasono's tail, just escaping the dire calamity of knocking out the brains of that profound and philo-monikin philosopher. In another instant, the ship was through the pass, which completely closed, with the crash of an earthquake, as soon as possible afterwards.

Still driven by the gale, we ran rapidly towards the south, along a channel less than a quarter of a mile in width, the bergs evidently closing on each side of us, and the ship, as if conscious of her jeopardy, doing her utmost, with Captain Poke still at the wheel. In little more than an hour, the worst was over; the Walrus issuing into an open basin of several

leagues in extent, which was, however, completely encircled by the frozen mountains. Here Noah took a look at the pumpkin; after which he made no ceremony in plumply telling Dr. Reasono that he had been greatly mistaken in laying down the position of Captivity Island, as he himself had named the spot where the amiable strangers had fallen into human hands. The philosopher was a little tenacious of his opinion; but what is argument in the face of facts? Here was the pumpkin, and there were the blue waters! The Captain now quite frankly declared that he had great doubts whether there was any such place as Leaphigh at all; and as the ship had a capital position for such an object, he bluntly, though privately, proposed to me, that we should throw all the monikins overboard, project the entire polar basin on his chart, as being entirely free from islands, and then go a sealing. I rejected the propositions, firstly, as premature; secondly, as inhuman; thirdly, as inhospitable;

fourthly, as inconvenient; and lastly, as impracticable.

There might have arisen a disagreeable controversy between us, on this point; for Mr. Poke had begun to warm, and to swear that one good seal, of the true quality of fur, was worth a hundred monkeys; when most happily the panther at the mast-head cried out that two of the largest of the mountains, to the southward of us, were separating, and that he could discern a passage into another basin. Hereupon Captain Poke concentrated his oaths, which he caused to explode like a bomb, and instantly made sail, again, in the proper direction. By three o'clock, P. M., we had run the gauntlet of the bergs, a second time, and were at least a degree nearer the pole, in the basin just alluded to.

The mountains had now entirely disappeared in the southern board; but the sea was covered, far as the eye could reach, with field-ice. Noah stood on, without apprehension; for the water

had been smooth ever since we entered the first opening, the wind not having rake enough to knock up a swell. When about a mile from the margin of the frozen and seemingly interminable plain, the ship was brought to the wind, and hove-to.

Ever since the vessel left the docks, there had been six sets of spars of a form so singular, lying among the booms, that they had often been the subject of conversation between the mates and myself, neither of the former being able to tell their uses. These sticks were of no great length, some fifteen feet at the most, of sound English oak. Two or three pairs were alike, for they were in pairs, each pair having one of the sides of a shape resembling different parts of the ship's bottom, with the exception that they were chiefly concave, while the bottom of a vessel is mainly convex. At one extremity each pair was firmly connected by a short, massive iron link, of about two feet in length; and, at its opposite end, a large eye-bolt

was driven into each stick, where it was securely forelocked. When the Walrus was stationary, we learned, for the first time, the uses of these unusual preparations. A pair of the timbers, which were of great solidity and strength, were dropped over the stern, and, sinking beneath the keel, their upper extremities were separated, by means of lanyards turned into the eye-bolts. The lanyards were then brought forward to the bilge of the vessel, where, by the help of tackles, the timbers were rowsed up in such a manner, that the link came close to the false-keel, and the timbers themselves were laid snug against each side of the ship. As great care had been taken, by means of marks on the vessel, as well as in forming the skids themselves, the fit was perfect. No less than five pairs were secured in and near the bilge, and as many more were distributed forward and aft, according to the shape of the bottom. Fore-and-aft pieces, that reached from one skid to the other, were then placed between those

about the bilge of the ship, each of them having a certain number of short ribs, extending upwards and downwards. These fore-and-aft pieces were laid along the water-line, their ends entering the skids by means of mortices and tenons, where they were snugly bolted. The result of the entire arrangement was to give the vessel an exterior protection against the field-ice, by means of a sort of net-work of timber, the whole of which had been so accurately fitted in the dock as to bear equally on her frame. These preparations were not fairly completed before ten o'clock on the following morning, when Noah stood directly for an opening in the ice before us, which, just about that time, began to be apparent.

"We sha'n't go so fast for our armour," observed the cautious old sealer; "but what we want in heels, we 'll make up in bottom."

For the whole of that day we worked our devious course, by great labour, and at uncertain intervals, to the southward; and at night,

we fastened the Walrus to a floe, in waiting for the return of light. Just as the day dawned, however, I heard a tremendous grating sound against the side of the vessel; and, rushing on deck, I found that we were completely caught between two immense fields, which seemed to be attracted towards each other for no other apparent purpose than to crush us. Here it was that the expedient of Captain Poke made manifest its merits. Protected by the massive timbers and false ribs, the bilge of the ship resisted the pressure; and as, under such circumstances, something must yield, luckily nothing but the attraction of gravitation was overcome. The skids, through their inclination, acted as wedges, the links pressing against the keel; and, in the course of an hour, the Walrus was gradually lifted out of the water, maintaining her upright position, in consequence of the powerful nip of the floes. No sooner was this experiment handsomely effected, than Mr. Poke jumped

upon the ice, and commenced an examination of the ship's bottom.

"Here 's a dry dock for you, Sir John!" exclaimed the old sealer, chuckling. I 'll have a patent for this, the moment I put foot ag'in in Stunin'tun."

A feeling of security, to which I had been a stranger ever since we entered the ice, was created by the composure of Noah, and by his self-congratulation at what he called his project to get a look at the Walrus's bottom. Notwithstanding all the fine declarations of exultation and success, however, that he flourished among us who were not mariners, I was much disposed to think that, like other men of extraordinary genius, he had blundered on the grand result of his "ice-screws," and that it was not foreseen and calculated. Let this be as it may, however, all hands were soon on the floe, with brooms, scrapers, hammers, and nails, and the opportunity of repairing and cleaning was thoroughly improved.

For four-and-twenty hours the ship remained in the same attitude, stiff as a church, and some of us began to entertain apprehensions that she might be kept on her frozen blocks for ever. The accident had happened, according to the statements of Captain Poke, in lat. 78° 13′ 26″ —although I never knew in what manner he ascertained the important particular of our precise situation. Thinking it might be well to get some more accurate ideas on this subject, after so long and ticklish a run, I procured the quadrant from Bob Ape, and brought it down upon the ice, where I made it a point, as an especial favour, the weather being favourable and the proper hour near, that our commander would correct his instinct by a solar observation. Noah protested that your old seaman, especially if a sealer and a Stunin'-tunner, had no occasion for such geometry-operations, as he termed them; that it might be well enough, perhaps necessary, for your counting-house, silk-gloved captains, who run

between New-York and Liverpool, to be rubbing up their glasses and polishing their sextants, for they hardly ever knew where they were, except at such times; but as for himself, he had little need of turning star-gazer at his time of life; and that, as he had already told me, he was getting to be near-sighted, and had some doubts whether he could discern an object like the sun, that was known to be so many thousands of millions of miles from the earth. These scruples, however, were overcome by my cleaning the glasses, preparing a barrel for him to stand on, that he might be at the customary elevation above his horizon, and putting the instrument into his hands, the mates standing near, ready to make the calculations, when he gave the sun's declination.

"We are drifting south'ard, I know," said Mr. Poke, before he commenced his sight, "I feel it in my bones. We are, at this moment, in 79° 36′ 14″, having made a southerly drift of more than eighty miles since yesterday noon.

Now, mind my words, and see what the sun will say about it."

When the calculations were made, our latitude was found to be 79° 35′ 47″. Noah was somewhat puzzled by the difference, for which he could in no plausible way account, as the observation had been unusually good and certain. But an opinionated and an ingenious man is seldom at a loss to find a sufficient reason to establish his own correctness, or to prove the mistakes of others.

"Ay, I see how it is," he said, after a little cogitation; "the sun must be wrong—it should be no wonder if the sun did get a little out of his track, in these high, cold latitudes. Yes, yes: the sun must be wrong."

I was too much delighted at being certain we were going on our course to dispute the point, and the great luminary was abandoned to the imputation of sometimes being in error. Dr. Reasono took occasion to say, in my private ear, that there was a sect of philosophers

in Leaphigh, who had long distrusted the accuracy of the planetary system, and who had even thrown out hints that the earth, in its annual revolution, moved in a direction absolutely contrary to that which Nature had contemplated when she gave the original polar impulse; but that, as regarded himself, he thought very little of these opinions, as he had frequent occasion to observe that there was a large class of monikins whose ideas always went up hill.

For two more days and as many nights, we continued to drift with the floes to the southward, or, as near as might be, towards the haven of our wishes. On the fourth morning, there was a suitable change in the weather; both thermometer and barometer rose; the air became more bland, and most of our cats and dogs, notwithstanding we were still surrounded by the ice, began to cast their skins. Dr. Reasono noted these signs, and stepping on the floe, he brought back with

him a considerable fragment of the frozen element. This was carried to the camboose, where it was subjected to the action of fire, which, within a given number of minutes, pretty much as a matter of course, as I thought, caused it to melt. The whole process was watched with an anxiety the most intense, by the whole of the monikins, however; and when the result was announced, the amiable and lovely Chatterissa clapped her pretty little *pattes* with joy, and gave all the other natural indications of delight which characterise the emotions of that gentle sex of which she was so bright an ornament. Dr. Reasono was not backward in explaining the cause of so much unusual exhilaration, for hitherto her manner had been characterised by the well-bred and sophisticated restraint which marks high training. The experiment had shown, by the infallible and scientific tests of monikin chemistry, that we were now within the influence of a steam-climate, and there

could no longer be any rational doubt of our eventual arrival in the polar basin.

The result proved that the philosopher was right. About noon the floes, which all that day had begun to assume what is termed a ' sloppy character,' suddenly gave way, and the Walrus settled down into her proper element, with great equanimity and propriety. Captain Poke lost no time in unshipping the skids; and a smacking breeze, that was well saturated with steam, springing up from the westward, we made sail. Our course was due south, without regard to the ice, which yielded before our bows like so much thick water, and, just as the sun set, we entered the open sea, rioting in the luxuriance of its genial climate, in triumph.

Sail was carried on the ship all that night; and just as the day dawned, we made the first mile-stone; a proof, not to be mistaken, that we were now actually in the monikin region. Dr. Reasono had the goodness to explain to

us the history of these aquatic phenomena. It would seem that when the earth exploded, its entire crust, throughout the whole of this part of the world, was started upward in such a way as to give a very uniform depth to the sea, which in no place exceeds four fathoms. It follows, as a consequence, that no prevalence of northerly winds can force the icebergs beyond 78° of south latitude, as they invariably ground on reaching the outer edge of the polar bank. The floes, being thin, are melted of course; and thus, by this beneficent prevention, the monikin world is kept entirely free from the very danger to which a vulgar mind would be the most apt to believe it is the most exposed.

A congress of nations had been held, about five centuries since, which was called the Holy-philo-marine-safety-and-find-the-way Alliance. At this congress the high contracting parties agreed to name a commission to make provision, generally, for the secure navigation of

the seas. One of the expedients of this commission, which, by the way, is said to have been composed of very illustrious monikins, was to cause massive blocks of stone to be laid down, at measured distances, throughout the whole of the basin, and in which other stone uprights were secured. The necessary inscriptions were graved on proper tablets, and as we approached the one already named, I observed that it had the image of a monikin, carved also in stone, with his tail extended in a right line, pointing, as Mr. Poke assured me, S. and by W. half W. I had made sufficient progress in the monikin language, to read, as we glided past this water-mark — "To Leaphigh 15 miles." One monikin mile, however, we were next told, was equal to nine English statute miles; and, consequently, we were not quite so near our port as was at first supposed. I expressed great satisfaction at finding ourselves so fairly on the road, however, and paid Dr. Reasono some well-merited

compliments on the high state of civilization to which his species had evidently arrived. The day was not distant, I added, when, it was reasonable to suppose, our own seas would have floating *restaurants* and *cafés*, with suitable pot-houses for the mariners; though I did not well see how we were to provide a substitute for their own excellent organization of mile-stones. The doctor received my compliments with a proper modesty, saying that he had no doubt mankind would do all that lay in their power to have good eating and drinking-houses, wherever they could be established; but, as to the marine mile-stones, he agreed with me, that there was little hope of their being planted, until the crust of the earth should be driven upward, so as to rise within four fathoms of the surface of the water. On the other hand, Captain Poke held this latter improvement very cheap. He affirmed it was no sign of civilization at all, for, as a man became civilized, he had less need of

primers and finger-boards; and, as for Leaphigh, any tolerable navigator might see it bore S. by W. half W. allowing for variation, distant one hundred and thirty-five English miles. To these objections I was silent, for I had had frequent occasions to observe that men very often underrate any advantage of which they have come into the enjoyment by a providential interposition.

Just as the sun was in the meridian, the cry of "land ahead" was heard from aloft. The monikins were all smiles and gratitude; the crew was excited by admiration and wonder; and, as for myself, I was literally ready to jump out of my skin, not only with delight, but in some measure also from the exceeding warmth of the atmosphere. Our cats and dogs began to uncase; Bob was obliged to unmask his most exposed frontier, by removing the union-jack; and Noah himself fairly appeared on deck in his shirt and night-cap. The amiable strangers were too much occupied to be

particular, and I slipped into my state-room to change my toilet to a dress of thin silk, that was painted to resemble the skin of a polar bear,—a contradiction between appearances and the substance of things, that is much too common in our species ever to be deemed out of fashion.

We neared the land with great rapidity, impelled by a steam-breeze, and just as the sun sunk in the horizon our anchor was let go, in the outer harbour of the city of Aggregation.

CHAPTER IV.

AN ARRIVAL;—FORMS OF RECEPTION;—SEVERAL NEW CHRISTENINGS;—AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT, AND TERRA FIRMA.

It is always agreeable to arrive safe, at the end of a long, fatiguing, and hazardous journey. But the pleasure is considerably augmented when the visit is paid to a novel region, with a steam-climate, and which is peopled by a new species. My own satisfaction, too, was coupled with the reflection that I had been of real service to four very interesting and well-bred strangers, who had been cast, by an adverse fortune, into the hands of humanity, and who owed to me a boon far more precious than that of life itself,—a restoration to their natural and acquired rights, their proper stations in society,

and sacred liberty! The reader will judge, therefore, with what inward self-congratulation I now received the acknowledgments of the whole monikin party, and likewise to their most solemn protestations ever to consider, not only all they might jointly and severally possess in the way of estates and dignities, at my entire disposal, but their persons as my slaves. Of course, I made as light as possible of any little service I might have done them, protesting, in my turn, that I looked upon the whole affair more in the light of a party of pleasure than a tax, reminding them that I had not only obtained an insight into a new philosophy, but that I was already, thanks to the decimal system, a tolerable proficient in their ancient and learned language. These civilities were scarcely well over, before we were boarded by the boat of the port-captain.

The arrival of a human ship was an event likely to create excitement in a monikin country; and, as our approach had been witnessed

for several hours, preparations had been made to give us a proper reception. The section of the academy to whom is committed the custody of the "Science of Indications" was hastily assembled, by order of the king, who, by the way, never speaks except through the mouth of his oldest male first cousin, who, by the fundamental laws of the realm, is held responsible for all his official acts, (in private, the king is allowed almost as many privileges as any other monikin,) and who, as is due to him in simple justice, is permitted to exercise, in a public point of view, the functions of the eyes, ears, nose, conscience, and tail of the monarch. The *savans* were active, and as they proceeded with method, and on well-established principles, their report was quickly made. It contained, as we afterwards understood, seven sheets of premises, eleven of argument, sixteen of conjecture, and two lines of deduction. This heavy draft on the monikin intellect was duly achieved by dividing the work into as many parts as

there were members of the section present, viz. forty. The substance of their labours was, to say that the vessel in sight was a strange vessel; that it came to a strange country, on a strange errand, being manned by strangers; and that its objects were more likely to be peaceful than warlike, since the glasses of the academy did not enable them to discover any means of annoyance, with the exception of certain wild beasts, who appeared, however, to be peaceably occupied in working the ship. All this was sententiously expressed in the purest monikin language. The effect of the report was to cause all hostile preparations to be abandoned.

No sooner did the boat of the port-captain return to the shore, with the news that the strange ship had arrived with my Lord Chatterino, my Lady Chatterissa, and Dr. Reasono, than there was a general burst of joy along the strand. In a very short time, the king — alias his eldest first cousin of the male ender —

ordered the usual compliments to be paid to his distinguished subjects. A deputation of young lords, the hopes of Leaphigh, came off to receive their colleague; whilst a bevy of beautiful maidens, of noble birth, crowded around the smiling and graceful Chatterissa, gladdening her heart with their caressing manners and felicitations. The noble pair left us in separate boats, each attended by an appropriate escort. We overlooked the little neglect of forgetting to take leave of us, for joy had quite set them both beside themselves. Next came a long procession composed of high numbers, all of the "brown-study-colour." These learned and dignified persons were a deputation from the academy, which had sent forth no less than forty of its number to receive Dr. Reasono. The meeting between these loving friends of monikinity and of knowledge was conducted on the most approved principles of reason. Each section (there are forty in the academy of Leaphigh) made an address, to all of which the

doctor returned suitable replies, always using exactly the same sentiments, but varying the subject by transpositions, as dictionaries are known to be composed by the ingenious combinations of the twenty-six letters of the alphabet. Dr. Reasono withdrew with his coadjutors, to my surprise, paying not a whit more attention to Captain Poke and myself, than would be paid, in any highly civilised country of Christendom, on a similar occasion, by a collection of the learned, to the accidental presence of two monkeys. I thought this augured badly, and began to feel as became Sir John Goldencalf, Bart. of Householder Hall, in the kingdom of Great Britain, when my sensations were nipped in the bud by the arrival of the Officers of Registration and Circulation. It was the duty of the latter to give us the proper passports to enter into and to circulate within the country, after the former had properly enregistered our numbers and colours, in such a way as to bring us within the reach of taxation. The officer of Registra-

tion was very expeditious from long practice. He decided, at once, that I formed a new class by myself; of which, of course, I was No. 1. The captain and his two mates formed another, Nos. 1, 2, and 3. Bob had a class also to himself, and the honours of No. 1; and the crew formed a fresh class, being numbered according to height, as the register deemed their merits to be altogether physical. Next came the important point of colour, on which depended the quality of the class or *caste*, the numbers merely indicating our respective stations in the particular divisions. After a good deal of deliberation, and many interrogatories, I was enregistered as No. 1, flesh-colour. Noah as No. 1, sea-water-colour, and his mates 2 and 3, accordingly. Bob as No. 1, smut-colour; and the crew as Nos. 1, 2, 3, &c. tar-colour. The officer now called upon an assistant to come forth with a sort of knitting-needle heated red-hot, in order to affix the official stamp to each in succession. Luckily for us all, Noah hap-

pened to be the first to whom the agent of the stamp-office applied, to uncase and to prepare for the operation. The result was one of those bursts of eloquent and logical vituperation, and of remonstrating outcries, to which any new personal exaction never failed to give birth in the sealer. His discourse on this occasion might be divided into the several following heads, all of which were very ingeniously embellished by the usual expletives and imagery: — "He was not a beast to be branded like a horse, nor a slave to be treated like a Congo nigger; he saw no use in applying the marks to men, who were sufficiently distinguished from monkeys already; Sir John had a handle before his name, and if he liked it, he might carry his name behind his body, by way of counterpoise,—but, for his part, he wanted no outriggers of the sort, being satisfied with plain Noah Poke; he was a republican, and it was anti-republican for a man to carry about with him graven images; he thought it might be

even flying in the face of the Scriptures, or, what was worse, turning his back on them; he said that the Walrus had her name, in good legible characters, on her starn, and that might answer for both of them; he protested, d—n his eyes, that he wouldn't be branded like a thief; he incontinently wished the keeper of the privy-seal to the d—l; he insisted there was no use in the practice, unless one threw all aback and went starn foremost into society — a rudeness at which human natur' revolted; he knew a man at Stunin'tun who had five names, and he should like to know what they would do with him if this practice should come into fashion there; he had no objection to a little paint, but no red-hot knitting-needle should make acquaintance with his flesh, so long as he walked his quarter-deck."

The keeper of the seals listened to this remonstrance with singular patience and decorum; a forbearance that was probably owing to his not understanding a word that had been

said. But there is a language that is universal, and it is not less easy to comprehend when a man is in a passion, than it is to comprehend any other irritated animal. The officer of the Registration Department, on this hint, politely inquired of me, if some part of his official duties were not particularly disagreeable to No. 1, sea-water-colour. On my admitting that the captain was reluctant to be branded, he merely shrugged his shoulders, and observed, that the exactions of the public were seldom agreeable—but that duty was duty, that the stamp-act was peremptory, and not a foot of ours could touch Leaphigh until we were all checked off in this manner, in exact conformity with the registration. I was much puzzled what to do, by this indomitable purpose to perform his duty in the officer; for, to own the truth, my own cuticle had quite as much aversion to the operation as that of Captain Poke himself. It was not the principle, so much as the novelty of its application, which distressed me;

for I had travelled too much not to know that a stranger rarely enters a *civilised* country without being more or less skinned, the merest savages only permitting him to pass unscathed. It suddenly came to my recollection that the monikins had left all the remains of their particular stores on board, consisting of an ample supply of delicious nuts. Sending for a bag of the best of them, I ordered it to be put into the register's boat, informing him, at the same time, that I was conscious they were quite unworthy of him—but that I hoped, such as they were, he would allow me to make an offering of them to his wife. This attention was properly felt and received; and a few minutes afterwards, a certificate in the following words was put into my hands, viz.—

"Leaphigh, season of promise, day of performance: *Whereas* certain persons of the human species have lately presented themselves to be enregistered, according to the statute

'For the promotion of order and classification, and for the collection of contributions;' and *whereas* these persons are yet in the second class of the animal probation, and are more subject to bodily impressions than the higher, or monikin species: Now know all monikins, &c. that they are *stamped* in paint, and that only by their numbers; each class among them being easily to be distinguished from the others, by outward and indelible proofs.

"Signed,

"No. 8,020, office-colour."

I was told that all we had to do now, was to mark ourselves with paint or tar, as we might choose, the latter being recommended for the crew; taking no farther trouble than to number ourselves: and, when we went ashore, if any of the gens-d'armes inquired why we had not the legal impression on our persons,—which quite possibly would be the case, as the law was absolute in its requisitions,—all we had to

do was to show the certificate; but, if the certificate was not sufficient, we were men of the world, and understood the nature of things so well, that we did not require to be taught so simple a proposition in philosophy as that which says, "like causes produce like effects;" and he presumed I could not have so far overrated his merits as to have sent the whole of my nuts into his boat. I avow that I was not very sorry to hear the officer throw out these hints, for they convinced me that my journey through Leaphigh would be accompanied with less embarrassment than I had anticipated, since I now plainly perceived that monikins act on principles that are not very essentially different from those of the human race in general.

The complaisant register and the keeper of the privy-seal took their departure together, when we forthwith proceeded to number ourselves in compliance with his advice. As the principle was already settled, we had no difficulty with its application; Noah, Bob, myself,

and the largest of the seamen, being all Nos. 1, and the rest ranking in order. By this time it was night. The guard-boats began to appear on the water, and we deferred disembarking until morning.

All hands were early afoot. It had been arranged that Captain Poke and myself, attended by Bob as a domestic, were to land, in order to make a journey through the island, while the Walrus was to be left in charge of the mates and the crew; the latter having permission to go ashore from time to time, as is the practice of all seamen in port. There was a great deal of preliminary scrubbing and shaving before the whole party could appear on deck properly attired for the occasion. Mr. Poke wore a thin dress of linen, admirably designed to make him look like a sea-lion; a conceit that he said was not only agreeable to his feelings and habits, but which had a cool and pleasant character, that was altogether suited to a steam-climate. For my own part,

I agreed with the worthy sealer, seeing but little difference between his going in this garb, and his going quite naked. My dress was made, on a design of my own, after the social-stake system; or, in other words, it was so arranged as to take an interest in half of the animals of Exeter Change, to which menagerie the artist by whom it had been painted was sent expressly, in order to consult nature. Bob wore the effigy, as his master called it, of a turnspit.

The monikins were by far too polished to crowd about us, when we landed, with an impertinent and troublesome curiosity. So far from this, we were permitted to approach the capital itself without let or hindrance. As it is less my intention to describe physical things than to dwell upon the philosophy and the other moral aspects of the Leaphigh world, little more will be said of their houses, domestic economy, and other improvements in the arts, than may be gathered incidentally as the nar-

rative shall proceed. Let it suffice to say, on these heads, that the Leaphigh monikins, like men, consult, or think they consult — which, so long as they know no better, amounts to pretty much the same thing — their own convenience in all things, the pocket alone excepted; and that they continue very laudably to do as their fathers did before them, seldom making changes, unless they may happen to possess the recommendation of being exotics; when, indeed, they are sometimes adopted, probably on account of their possessing the merit of having been proved suitable to another state of things.

Among the first persons we met, on entering the great square of Aggregation, as the capital of Leaphigh is called when rendered into English, was my Lord Chatterino. He was gaily promenading with a company of young nobles, who all seemed to be enjoying their youth, health, rank, and privileges with infinite gusto. We met this party in a way to render an escape from mutual recognition

impossible. At first I thought, from his averted eye, that it was the intention of our late shipmate to consider our knowledge of each other as one of those accidental acquaintances which, it is known, we all form at watering-places, on journeys, or in the country, and which it is ill-mannered to press upon others in town; or, as Captain Poke afterwards expressed it, like the intimacy between an Englishman and a Yankee, that has been formed in the house of the latter, on better wine than is met with anywhere else, and which was never yet known to withstand the influence of a British fog. "Why, Sir John," the sealer added, "I once tuck (he meant to say *took*, not *tucked*) a countryman of yours under my wing, at Stunin'tun, during the last war. He was a prisoner, as we make prisoners; that is, he went and did pretty much as he pleased; and the fellow had the best of everything—molasses that a spoon would stand up in, pork that would do to slush down a topmast, and New England rum, that a king

might sit down to, but could not get up from: —Well, what was the end on't? why, as sure as we are among these monkeys, the fellow *booked* me. Had I *booked* but the half of what he guzzled, the amount, I do believe, would have taken the transaction out of any justice's court in the state. He said my molasses was meagre, the pork lean, and the liquor infernal. There were truth and gratitude for you! He gave the whul account, too, as a specimen of what he called American living!"

Hereupon I reminded my companion, that an Englishman did not like to receive even favours on compulsion; that when he meets a stranger in his own country and is master of his own actions, no man understands better what true hospitality is, as I hoped one day to show him at Householder Hall: as to his first remark, he ought to remember that an Englishman considered America as no more than the country, and that it would be ill-mannered to press an acquaintance made there.

Noah, like most other men, was very reasonable on all subjects that did not interfere with his prejudices or his opinions; and he very readily admitted the general justice of my reply.

"It's pretty much as you say, Sir John," he continued. "In England you may press men, but it wun't do to press hospitality. Get a volunteer in this way, and he is as good a fellow as heart can wish. I shouldn't have cared so much about the chap's book, if he had said nothin' ag'in the rum. Why, Sir John, when the English bombarded Stunin'tun with eighteen-pounders, I proposed to load our old twelve with a gallon out of the very same cask, for I do think it would have huv' the shot the best part of a mile!"

——But this digression is leading me from the narrative. My Lord Chatterino turned his head a little on one side as we were passing; and I was deliberating whether, under the circumstances, it would be well-bred to remind

him of our old acquaintance, when the question was settled by the decision of Captain Poke, who placed himself in such a position that it was no easy matter to get round him, through him, or over him; or who laid himself what he called "athwart hawse."

"Good morning, my lord," said the straightforward seaman, who generally went at a subject as he went at a seal. "A fine warm day; and the smell of the land, after so long a passage, is quite agreeable to the nose, whatever its ups and downs may be to the legs."

The companions of the young peer looked amazed; and some of them, I thought, notwithstanding gravity and earnestness are rather characteristic of the monikin physiognomy, betrayed a slight disposition to laugh. Not so with my Lord Chatterino himself.

He examined us a moment through a glass, and then seemed suddenly and, on the whole, agreeably struck at seeing us.

"How, Goldencalf!" he cried, in surprise,

" you in Leaphigh! This is, indeed, an unexpected satisfaction; for it will now be in my power to prove some of the facts that I am telling my friends, by actual observation. Here are two of the humans, gents, of whom I was but this moment giving you some account——"

Observing a disposition to merriment in his associates, he continued, looking exceedingly grave:—

" Restrain yourselves, gentlemen, I pray you. These are very worthy people, I do assure you, in their own way, and are not at all to be ridiculed. I scarcely know, even in our own marine, a better or a bolder navigator than this honest seaman; and as for the one in the parti-coloured skin, I will take upon myself to say, that he is really a person of some consideration in his own little circle. He is, I believe, a member of par—par—par—am I right, Sir John?—a member of——"

" Parliament, my lord—an M. P."

"Ay—I thought I had it—an M. P. or a member of parliament in his own country; which, I dare say, now, is some such thing among his people, as a public proclaimer of those laws which come from His Majesty's eldest first-cousin of the masculine gender may be among us. Some such thing—eh—now—eh—is it not, Sir John?"

"I dare say it is, my lord."

"All very true, Chatterino," put in one of the young monikins, with a very long, elaborated tail, which he carried nearly perpendicular—"but what would be even a law-*maker* — to say nothing of law-*breakers* like ourselves—among men! You should remember, my dear fellow, that a mere title, or a profession, is not the criterion of true greatness; but that the prodigy of a village may be a very common monikin in town."

"Poh—poh!" interrupted Lord Chatterino, "thou art ever for refining, Hightail—Sir John Goldencalf is a very respectable person

in the island of—a—a—a—what do you call that said island of yours, Goldencalf?—a—a——"

"Great Britain, my lord."

"Ay, Great Breeches, sure enough: yes, he is a respectable person—I can take it upon myself to say, with confidence, a very respectable person, in Great Breeches. I dare say he owns no small portion of the island himself. How much, now, Sir John, if the truth were told?"

"Only the estate and village of Householder, my lord, with a few scattered manors, here and there."

"Well, that is a very pretty thing, there can be no doubt:—then you have money at use?"

"And who is the debtor?" sneeringly inquired the jackanapes Hightail.

"No other, my Lord Hightail, than the realm of Great Britain."

"Exquisite that, egad! A noble's fortune

in the custody of the realm of a—Greek—a——"

"Great Breeches," interrupted my Lord Chatterino; who, notwithstanding he swore he was excessively angry with his friend for his obstinate incredulity, very evidently had to exercise some forbearance to keep from joining in the general laugh. "It is a very respectable country, I do protest; and I scarcely remember to have tasted better gooseberries than they grow in that very island."

"What! have they really gardens, Chatterino?"

"Certainly—after a fashion—and houses, and public conveyances—and even universities."

"You do not mean to say, certainly, that they have a system!"

"Why, as to system, I believe they are a little at sixes and sevens. I really can't take it upon myself to say that they have a system."

"Oh, yes, my lord,—of a certainty we have one—the Social-stake System."

"Ask the creature," whispered audibly the filthy coxcomb Hightail, "if he himself, now, has any income."

"How is it, Sir John,—have you an income?"

"Yes, my lord, of one hundred and twelve thousand sovereigns a year."

"Of what?—of what?" demanded two or three voices, with well-bred, subdued eagerness.

"Of sovereigns—why that means kings!"

It would appear that the Leaphighers, while they obey only the King's eldest first-cousin of the masculine gender, perform all their official acts in the name of the sovereign himself, for whose person and character they pretty uniformly express the profoundest veneration; just as we men express admiration for a virtue that we never practise. My declaration, therefore, produced a strong sensation, and I was soon required to explain myself. This I did, by simply stating the truth.

"Oh, gold, yclept sovereigns!" exclaimed three or four, laughing heartily. "Why then, your famous Great Breeches people, after all, Chatterino, are so little advanced in civilization, as to use gold! Harkee, Signior — a — a — Boldercraft, have you no currency in 'promises?'"

"I do not know, sir, that I rightly comprehend the question."

"Why, we poor barbarians, sir, who live as you see us, only in a state of simplicity and nature," — there was irony in every syllable the impudent scoundrel uttered, — "we poor wretches, or rather our ancestors, made the discovery, that, for the purposes of convenience, having, as you perceive, no pockets, it might be well to convert all our currency into 'promises.' Now, I would ask if you have any of that coin?"

"Not as coin, sir, but as collateral to coin, we have plenty."

"He speaks of collaterals in currency, as if

he were discussing a pedigree! Are you really, Mynherr Shouldercalf, so little advanced in your country, as not to know the immense advantages of a currency of 'promises?'"

"As I do not understand exactly what the nature of this currency is, sir, I cannot answer as readily as I could wish."

"Let us explain it to him; for, I vow, I am really curious to hear his answer. Chatterino, do you, who have some knowledge of the thing's habits, be our interpreter."

"The matter is thus, Sir John. About five hundred years ago, our ancestors having reached that pass in civilization when they came to dispense with the use of pockets, began to find it necessary to substitute a new currency for that of the metals, which it was inconvenient to carry, of which they might be robbed, and which also were liable to be counterfeited. The first expedient was to try a lighter substitute. Laws were passed giving value to linen and cotton, in the raw material; then, compounded

and manufactured; next, written on, and reduced in bulk, until, having passed through the several gradations of wrapping-paper, brown-paper, foolscap, and blotting-paper, and having set the plan fairly at work, and got confidence thoroughly established, the system was perfected by a *coup-de-main;* — 'promises' in words, were substituted for all other coin. You see the advantage at a glance.—A monikin can travel without pockets or baggage, and still carry a million; the money cannot be counterfeited, nor can it be stolen or burned."

"But, my lord, does it not depreciate the value of property?"

"Just the contrary:—an acre that formerly could be bought for one promise, would now bring a thousand."

"This certainly is a great improvement, unless frequent failures——"

"Not at all; there has not been a bankruptcy in Leaphigh since the law was passed making promises a legal tender."

"I wonder no Chancellor of the Exchequer ever thought of this, at home!"

"So much for your Great Breeches, Chatterino!" And then there was another and a very general laugh. I never before felt so deep a sense of national humility.

"As they have universities," cried another coxcomb, "perhaps this person has attended one of them."

"Indeed, sir," I answered, "I am regularly graduated."

"It is not easy to see what he has done with his knowledge; for, though my sight is none of the worst, I cannot trace the smallest sign of a *cauda* about him."

"Ah!" Lord Chatterino good-naturedly explained, "the inhabitants of Great Breeches carry their brains in their heads."

"Their heads!"

"Heads!"

"That's excellent, by his Majesty's prerogative! Here's civilization, with a vengeance!"

I now thought that the general ridicule would overwhelm me. Two or three came closer, as if in pity or curiosity; and, at last, one cried out that I actually wore clothes.

"Clothes — the wretch! Chatterino, do all your human friends wear clothes?"

The young peer was obliged to confess the truth: and then there arose such a clamour as may be fancied took place among the peacocks, when they discovered the daw among them in masquerade. Human nature could endure no more; and, bowing to the company, I wished Lord Chatterino very hurriedly good morning, and proceeded towards the tavern.

"Don't forget to step into Chatterino-house, Goldencalf, before you sail," cried my late fellow-traveller, looking over his shoulder, and nodding in quite a friendly way towards me.

"King!" exclaimed Captain Poke. "That blackguard ate a whole bread-locker-full of nuts, on our outward passage, and now he tells

us to step into his Chatterino-house, before we sail !"

I endeavoured to pacify the sealer, by an appeal to his philosophy. It was true that men never forgot obligations, and were always excessively anxious to repay them; but the monikins were an exceedingly instructed species; they thought more of their minds than of their bodies, as was plain by comparing the smallness of the latter with the length and developement of the seat of reason; and one of his experience should know that good-breeding is decidedly an arbitrary quality, and that we ought to respect its laws, however opposed to our own previous practices.

"I dare say, friend Noah, you may have observed some material difference in the usages of Paris, for instance, and those of Stunin'-tun."

"That I have, Sir John, that I have; and altogether to the advantage of Stunin'tun be they."

"We are all addicted to the weakness of believing our own customs best; and it requires that we should travel much, before we are able to decide on points so nice."

"And do you not call me a traveller? Haven't I been sixteen times a sealing, twice a whaling, without counting my cruise overland, and this last run to Leaphigh!"

"Ay, you have gone over much land and much water, Mr. Poke; but your stay in any given place has been just long enough to find fault. Usages must be worn, like a shoe, before one can judge of the fit."

It is possible Noah would have retorted, had not Mrs. Vigilance Lynx, at that moment, come wriggling by, in a way to show she was much satisfied with her safe return home. To own the truth, while striving to find apologies for it, I had been a little *contrarié*, as the French term it, by the indifference of my Lord Chatterino, which, in my secret heart, I was not slow in attributing to the manner in which a

peer of the realm of Leaphigh regarded, *de haut en bas*, a mere baronet of Great Britain—or Great Breeches, as the young noble so pertinaciously insisted on terming our illustrious island. Now, as Mrs. Vigilance was of "russet-colour," a caste of an inferior standing, I had little doubt that she would be as glad to own an intimacy with Sir John Goldencalf of Householder Hall, as the other might be willing to shuffle it off.

"Good morrow, good Mrs. Vigilance," I said familiarly, endeavouring to wriggle in a way that *would* have shaken a tail, had it been my good fortune to be the owner of one — "Good morrow, good Mrs. Vigilance—I 'm glad to meet you again on shore."

I do not remember that Mrs. Vigilance, during the whole period of our acquaintance, was particularly squeamish, or topping in her deportment. On the contrary, she had rather made herself remarkable for a modest and commendable reserve. But, on the present occa-

sion, she disappointed all reasonable expectation, by shrinking on one side, uttering a slight scream, and hurrying past as if she thought we might bite her. Indeed, I can only compare her deportment to that of a female of our own, who is so full of vanity as to fancy all eyes on her, and who gives herself airs about a dog or a spider, because she thinks they make her look so much the more interesting. Conversation was quite out of the question; for the duenna hurried on, bending her head downward, as if heartily ashamed of an involuntary weakness.

"Well, good madam," said Noah, whose stern eye followed her movements until she was quite lost in the crowd, "you would have had a sleepless v'yage if I had fore-imagined this! Sir John, these people stare at us as if we were wild beasts!"

"I cannot say I am of your way of thinking, Captain Poke. To me they seem to take no more notice of us, than we should take of two curs in the streets of London."

"I begin, now, to understand what the parsons mean when they talk of the lost condition of man. It's ra'ally awful to witness to what a state of unfeelingness a people can be abandoned! Bob, get out of the way, you grinning blackguard."

Hereupon Bob received a salutation which would have demolished his stern-frame, had it not been for the union-jack. Just then I was glad to see Dr. Reasono advancing towards us, surrounded by a group of attentive listeners, all of whom, by their years, gravity, and deportment, I made no question were *savans*. As he drew near, I found he was discoursing of the marvels of his late voyage. When within six feet of us the whole party stopped, the Doctor continuing to descant, with a very proper gesticulation, and in a way to show that his subject was of infinite interest to his listeners. Accidentally turning his eye in our direction, he caught a glimpse of our figures, and making a few hurried apologies to those

around him, the excellent philosopher came eagerly forward, with both hands extended. Here was a difference, indeed, between his treatment and that of Lord Chatterino and the duenna! The salutation was warmly returned; and the Doctor and myself stepped a little apart, as he lost no time in informing me he wished to say a word in private.

"My dear Sir John," the philosopher began, "our arrival has been the most happily-timed thing imaginable! All Leaphigh, by this time, is filled with the subject; and you can scarcely conceive the importance that is attached to the event: new sources of trade, scientific discoveries, phenomena both moral and physical, and results that it is thought may serve to raise the monikin civilization still higher than ever. Fortunately, the academy holds its most solemn meeting of the year this very day, and I have been formally requested to give the assembly an outline of those events which have lately passed before my eyes. The King's

eldest first-cousin of the masculine gender is to attend openly; and it is even conjectured, in a way to be quite authentic, that the King himself will be present in his own royal person."

"How!" I exclaimed; "have you a mode, in Leaphigh, of rendering conjectures certain?"

"Beyond a doubt, sir,—or what would our civilization be worth? As to the King's Majesty, we always deal in the most direct ambiguities. Now, as respects many of our ceremonies, the sovereign is known morally to be present, when he may be actually and physically eating his dinner at the other extremity of the island: this important illustration of the royal ubiquity is effected by means of a legal fiction. On the other hand, the King often indulges his natural propensities, such as curiosity, love of fun, or detestation of *ennui*, by coming in person, when, by the court fiction, he is thought to be seated on his throne,

in his own royal palace. Oh! as to all these little accomplishments and graces in the art of Truths, we are behind no people in the universe!"

"I beg pardon, Doctor—so his Majesty is expected to be at the academy, this morning?"

"In a private box. Now this affair is of the last importance to me as a *savant*, to you as a human being—for it will have a direct tendency to raise your whole species in the monikin estimation—and, lastly, to learning. It will be indispensably necessary that you should attend, with as many of your companions as possible—more especially the better specimens. I was coming down to the landing, in the hope of meeting you; and a messenger has gone off to the ship to require that the people be sent ashore forthwith. You will have a tribune to yourselves; and, really, I do not like to express beforehand what I think concerning the degree of attention you will all receive; but this much I think I can say—you will see."

"This proposition, Doctor, has taken me a little by surprise, and I hardly know what answer to give."

"You cannot say no, Sir John; for, should his Majesty hear that you have refused to come to a meeting at which he is to be present, it would seriously, and, I might add, justly offend him;—nor could I answer for the consequences."

"Why, I was told that all the power was in the hands of his Majesty's eldest first-cousin of the masculine gender; in which case I thought I might snap my fingers at his Majesty himself."

"Not in opinion, Sir John, which is one of the three estates of the government. Ours is a government of three estates—viz. the Law, Opinion, and Practice. By law the king rules, by practice his cousin rules, and by opinion the king again rules. Thus is the strong point of practice balanced by law and opinion. This it is that constitutes the harmony and perfec-

tion of the system. No, it would never do to offend his Majesty."

Although I did not very well comprehend the Doctor's argument, yet, as I had often found in human society, theories political, moral, theological, and philosophical, that everybody had faith in, and which nobody understood, I thought discussion useless, and gave up the point by promising the Doctor to be at the academy in half an hour, which was the time named for our appearance. Taking the necessary directions to find the place, we separated; he to hasten to make his preparations, and I to reach the tavern, in order to deposit our baggage, that no decency might be overlooked on an occasion so solemn.

CHAPTER V.

AN INN—DEBTS PAID IN ADVANCE, AND A SINGULAR TOUCH OF HUMAN NATURE FOUND CLOSELY INCORPORATED WITH MONIKIN NATURE.

We soon secured rooms, ordered dinner, brushed our clothes, and made the other little arrangements that it was necessary to observe for the credit of the species. Everything being ready, we left the inn, and hurried towards the "*Palais des Arts et des Sciences.*" We had not got out of sight of the inn, however, before one of its *garçons* was at our heels with a message from his mistress. He told us, in very respectful tones, that his master was out, and that he had taken with him the key of the strong-box; that there was not actually money enough in the drawer to furnish an entertainment

for such great persons as ourselves, and she had taken the liberty to send us a bill receipted, with a request that we would make a small advance, rather than reduce her to the mortification of treating such distinguished guests in an unworthy manner. The bill read as follows:—

No. 1 parti-colour and friends
To No. 82,763 grape-colour Dr.
To use of apartments, with meals and lights, as per agreement, *p. p.* 300 per diem—one day, *p. p.* 300
By cash advanced, 50
Balance due, *p. p.* 250

"This seems all right," I observed to Noah; "but I am, at this moment, as penniless as the good woman herself. I really do not see what we are to do, unless Bob sends her back his store of nuts——"

"Harkee, my nimble-go-hop," put in the seaman, "what is your pleasure?"

The waiter referred to the bill, as expressing his mistress's wants.

"What are these p. p. that I find noted in the bill—play or pay, hey?"

"Promises, of course, your honour."

"Oh! then you desire fifty promises, to provide our dinner?"

"Nothing more, sir. With that sum you shall dine like noblemen — ay, sir, like aldermen."

I was delighted to find that this worthy class of beings have the same propensities in all countries.

"Here, take a hundred," answered Noah, snapping his fingers, "and make no bones of it. And harkee, my worthy — lay out every farthing of them in the fare. Let there be good cheer, and no one will grumble at the bill. I am ready to buy the inn, and all it holds, at need."

The waiter departed well satisfied with these assurances, and apparently in the anticipation of good vails for his own trouble.

We soon got into the current that was

setting towards our place of destination. On reaching the gate, we found we were anxiously expected; for there was an attendant in waiting, who instantly conducted us to the seats that were provided for our special reception. It is always agreeable to be among the privileged, and I must own that we were all not a little flattered, on finding that an elevated tribune had been prepared for us, in the centre of the rotunda in which the academy held its sittings, so that we could see, and be seen by, every individual of the crowded assembly. The whole crew, even to the negro cook, had preceded us; an additional compliment, that I did not fail to acknowledge by suitable salutations to all the members present. After the first feelings of pleasure and surprise were a little abated, I had leisure to look about me and to survey the company.

The academicians occupied the whole of the body of the rotunda, the space taken up by the erection of our temporary tribune alone ex-

cepted ; while there were sofas, chairs, tribunes, and benches arranged for the spectators, in the outer circles, and along the side-walls of the hall. As the edifice itself was very large, and mind had so essentially reduced matter in the monikin species, there could not have been less than fifty thousand tails present. Just before the ceremonies commenced, Dr. Reasono approached our tribune, passing from one to another of the party, saying a pleasant and an encouraging word to each, in a way to create high expectations in us all, as to what was to follow. We were so very evidently honoured and distinguished, that I struggled hard to subdue any unworthy feeling of pride, as unbecoming human meekness, and in order to maintain a philosophical equanimity under the manifestations of respect and gratitude that I knew were about to be lavished upon even the meanest of our party. The Doctor was yet in the midst of his pointed attentions, when the king's eldest first-cousin of the masculine

gender entered, and the business of the meeting immediately began. I profited by a short pause, however, to say a few words to my companions. I told them there would soon be a serious demand on their modesty. We had performed a great and generous exploit, and it did not become us to lessen its merit by betraying a vain-glorious self-esteem. I implored them all to take pattern by me; promising, in the end, that their new friends would trebly prize their hardihood, self-denial, and skill.

There was a new member of the academy of Latent Sympathies to be received and installed. A long discourse was read by one of this department of the monikin learning, which pointed out and enlarged on the rare merits of the new academician. He was followed by the latter, who, in a very elaborate production, that consumed just fifty-five minutes in the reading, tried all he could to persuade the audience that the defunct was a loss to the world, that no accident or application would ever repair; and

that he himself was precisely the worst person who could have been selected to be his successor. I was a little surprised at the perfect coolness with which the learned body listened to a reproach that was so very distinctly and perseveringly thrown, as it were, into their very teeth. But a more intimate acquaintance with monikin society satisfied me, that any one might say just what he pleased, so long as he allowed that every one else was an excellent fellow, and he himself the poorest devil going. When the new member had triumphantly established his position, and just as I thought his colleagues were bound, in common honesty, to reconsider their vote, he concluded, and took his seat among them with quite as much assurance as the best philosopher of them all.

After a short pause, and an abundance of felicitations on his excellent and self-debasing discourse, the newly-admitted member again rose, and began to read an essay on some discoveries he had made in the science of Latent

Sympathies. According to his account of the matter, every monikin possessed a fluid which was invisible, like the animalculæ which pervade nature, and which required only to be brought into command, and to be reduced to more rigid laws, to become the substitutes for the senses of sight, touch, taste, hearing, and smelling. This fluid was communicable; and had already been so far rendered subject to the will, as to make it of service in seeing in the dark, in smelling when the operator had a bad cold, in tasting when the palate was down, and in touching by proxy. Ideas had been transmitted, through its agency, sixty-two leagues in one minute and a half. Two monikins, who were afflicted with diseased tails, had, during the last two years, been insulated and saturated, and had then lost those embellishments, by operations; a quantity of the fluid having been substituted in their places so happily, that the patients fancied themselves more than ever conspicuous for the length and *finesse* of their

caudæ. An experiment had also been successfully tried on a member of the lower house of parliament, who, being married to a monikina of unusual mind, had for a long time been supplied with ideas from this source, although his partner was compelled to remain at home, in order to superintend the management of their estate, forty-two miles from town, during the whole session. He particularly recommended to government the promotion of this science, as it might be useful in obtaining evidence for the purposes of justice, in detecting conspiracies, in collecting the taxes, and in selecting candidates for trusts of a responsible nature. The suggestion was well received by the King's cousin, more especially those parts that alluded to sedition and the revenue.

This essay was also perfectly well received by the *savans*, for I afterwards found very little came amiss to the academy; and the members named a committee forthwith, to examine into "the facts concerning invisible and unknown

fluids, their agency, importance, and relations to monikin happiness."

We were next favoured with a discussion on the different significations of the word *gorst-chwzyb;* which, rendered into English, means "eh!" The celebrated philologist who treated the subject, discovered amazing ingenuity in expatiating on its ramifications and deductions. First, he tried the letters by transpositions, by which he triumphantly proved that it was derived from all the languages of the ancients; the same process showed that it possessed four thousand and two different significations: he next reasoned most ably and comprehensively for ten minutes, backwards and forwards, using no other word but this, applied in its various senses; after which, he incontrovertibly established that this important part of speech was so useful as to be useless, and he concluded by a proposition, in which the academy coincided by acclamation, that it should be for ever and incontinently expunged from the Leaphigh voca-

bulary. As the vote was carried by acclamation, the King's cousin arose, and declared that the writer who should so far offend against good taste, as hereafter to make use of the condemned word, should have two inches cut off the extremity of his tail. A shudder among the ladies, who, I afterwards ascertained, loved to carry their *caudæ* as high as our women like to carry their heads, proved the severity of the decree.

An experienced and seemingly much respected member now arose to make the following proposal. He said it was known that the monikin species was fast approaching perfection; that the increase of mind and the decrease of matter was so very apparent as to admit of no denial; that, in his own case, he found his physical powers diminish daily, while his mental acquired new distinctness and force; that he could no longer see without spectacles, hear without a tube, or taste without high seasoning: from all this he inferred that they were

drawing near to some important change, and he wished that portion of the science of Latent Sympathies which was connected with the unknown fluid, just treated on, might be referred to a committee of the whole, in order to make some provision for the wants of a time when monikins should finally lose their senses. There was nothing to say against a proposition so plausible, and it was accepted *nemine contradicente*, with the exception of a few in the minority.

There was now a good deal of whispering, much wagging of tails, and other indications that the real business of the meeting was about to be touched upon. All eyes were turned on Dr. Reasono, who, after a suitable pause, entered a tribune prepared for solemn occasions, and began his discourse.

The philosopher, who, having committed his essay to memory, spoke extempore, commenced with a beautiful and most eloquent apostrophe to learning, and to the enthusiasm which glows

in the breasts of all her real votaries, rendering them alike indifferent to their personal ease, their temporal interests, danger, suffering, and tribulations of the spirit. After this exordium, which was pronounced to be *unique* for its simplicity and truth, he entered at once on the history of his own recent adventures.

First, alluding to the admirable character of that Leaphigh usage which prescribes the Journey of Trial, our philosopher spoke of the manner in which he had been selected to accompany my Lord Chatterino on an occasion so important to his future hopes. He dwelt on the physical preparations, the previous study, and the moral machinery that he had employed with his pupil before they quitted town ; all of which, there is reason to think, were well fitted to their objects, as he was constantly interrupted by murmurs of applause. After some time spent in dilating on these points, I had, at length, the satisfaction to find him, Mrs. Lynx, and their two wards, fairly setting out on a

journey which, as he very justly mentioned, proved " to be pregnant with events of so much importance to knowledge in general, to the happiness of the species, and to several highly interesting branches of monikin science in particular." I say the satisfaction, for, to own the truth, I was eager to witness the effect that would be made on the monikin sensibilities, when he came to speak of my own discernment in detecting their real characters beneath the contumely and disgrace in which it had been my good fortune to find them, the promptitude with which I had stepped forward to their relief, and the liberality and courage with which I had furnished the means and encountered the risks that were necessary to restore them to their native land. The anticipation of this human triumph could not but diffuse a general satisfaction in our tribune,—even the common mariners, as they recalled the dangers through which they had passed, feeling a consciousness of deserving, mingled with that soothing senti-

ment which is ever the companion of a merited reward. As the philosopher drew nearer to the time when it would be necessary to speak of us, I threw a look of triumph at Lord Chatterino, which, however, failed of its intended effect, — the young peer continuing to whisper to his noble companions with just as much self-importance and coolness as if he had not been one of the rescued captives.

Dr. Reasono was justly celebrated, among his colleagues, for ingenuity and eloquence. The excellent morals that he threw into every possible opening of his subject, the beauty of the figures with which they were illustrated, and the masculine tendencies of his argument, gave general delight to the audience. The Journey of Trial was made to appear, what it had been intended to be by the fathers and sages of the Leaphigh institutions, a probation replete with admonitions and instruction. The aged and experienced, who had grown callous by time, could not conceal their exultation; the mature

and suffering looked grave and full of meditation; while the young and sanguine fairly trembled, and, for once, doubted. But as the philosopher led his party from precipice to precipice in safety, as rocks were scaled and seductive valleys avoided, a common feeling of security began to extend itself among the audience; and we all followed him in his last experiment among the ice with that sort of blind confidence which the soldier comes, in time, to entertain in the orders of a tried and victorious general.

The Doctor was graphic in his account of the manner in which he and his wards plunged among these new trials. The lovely Chatterissa (for all his travelling companions were present) bent aside her head and blushed, as the philosopher alluded to the manner in which the pure flame that glowed in her gentle bosom resisted the chill influence of that cold region; and when he recited an ardent declaration that my Lord Chatterino had made on the centre of a floe, and the kind

and amorous answer of his mistress, I thought the applause of the old academicians would have actually brought the vaulted dome clattering about our ears.

At length he reached the point in the narrative where the amiable wanderers fell in with the sealers, on that unknown island to which chance and an adverse fortune had unhappily led them in their pilgrimage. I had taken measures secretly to instruct Mr. Poke and the rest of my companions as to the manner in which it became us to demean ourselves, while the Doctor was acquainting the academy with that first outrage committed by human cupidity, the seizure of himself and friends. We were to rise, in a body, and, turning our faces a little on one side, veil our eyes in sign of shame. Less than this, it struck me, could scarcely be done, without manifesting an improper indifference to monikin rights; and more than this, might have been identifying ourselves with the particular individuals

of the species who had perpetrated the wrong. But there was no occasion to exhibit this delicate attention to our learned hosts. The Doctor, with a refinement of feeling that did credit, indeed, to monikin civilization, gave an ingenious turn to the whole affair, which at once removed all cause of shame from our species; and which, if it left reason for any to blush, by a noble act of disinterestedness threw the entire *onus* of the obligation on himself. Instead of dwelling on the ruthless manner in which he and his friends had been seized, the worthy doctor very tranquilly informed his listeners that, finding himself, by hazard, brought in contact with another species, and that the means of pushing important discoveries were unexpectedly placed in his power; conscious it had long been a desideratum with the *savans* to obtain a nearer view and more correct notions of human society; believing he had a discretion in the matter of his wards, and knowing that the inhabitants of Leaplow, a repub-

lic which all disliked, were seriously talking of sending out an expedition for this very purpose,—he had promptly decided to profit by events, to push inquiry to the extent of his abilities, and to hazard all in the cause of learning and truth, by at once engaging the vessel of the sealers, and sailing, without dread of consequences, forthwith into the very bosom of the world of man !

I have listened with awe to the thunder of the tropics,—I have held my breath as the artillery of a fleet vomited forth its fire, and rent the air with sudden concussions,—I have heard the roar of the tumbling river of the Canadas, and I have stood aghast at the crashing of a forest in a tornado; — but never before did I feel so life-stirring, so thrilling an emotion, of surprise, alarm, and sympathy, as that which arose within me at the burst of commendation and delight with which this announcement of self-devotion and enterprise was received by the audience. Tails waved, *pattes* met each other

in ecstasy, voice whistled to voice, and there was one common cry of exultation, of rapture and of glorification, at this proof, not of monikin, for that would have been frittering away the triumph, but at this proof of Leaphigh courage!

During the clamour, I took an opportunity to express my satisfaction at the handsome manner in which our friend the Doctor had passed over an acknowledged human delinquency, and the ingenuity with which he had turned the whole of the unhappy transaction to the glory of Leaphigh. Noah answered, that the philosopher had certainly "shown a knowledge of human natur', and, he presumed, of monikin natur', in the matter; no one would now dispute his statement, since, as he knew by experience, no one was so likely to be set down as a liar, as he who endeavoured to unsettle the good opinion that either a community or an individual entertained of himself. This was the way at Stunin'tun, and he believed this was pretty much the way at New York,

or he might say with the whole 'arth, from pole to pole. As for himself, however, he owned he should like to have a few minutes' private conversation with the sealer in question, to hear his account of the matter; he didn't know any owner in his part of the world, who would bear a captain out, should he abandon a v'yage in this way, on no better security than the promises of a monkey — and of a monkey, too, who must, of necessity, be an utter stranger to him."

When the tumult of applause had a little abated, Dr. Reasono proceeded with his narrative. He touched lightly on the accommodations of the schooner, which, he gave us reason to think, were altogether of a quality beneath the condition of her passengers; and he added that, falling in with a larger and fairer vessel, which was making a passage between Bombay and Great Britain, he profited by the occasion, to exchange ships. This vessel touched at the island of St. Helena, where, according to the

Doctor's account of the matter, he found means to pass the greater part of a week on shore.

Of the island of St. Helena he gave a long, scientific, and certainly an interesting account. It was reported to be volcanic, by the human *savans*, he said; but a minute examination and a comparison of the geological formation, &c. had quite satisfied him that their own ancient account, which was contained in the mineralogical works of Leaphigh, was the true one; or, in other words, that this rock was a fragment of the polar world that had been blown away at the great eruption, and which had become separated from the rest of the mass at this spot, where it had fallen and become a fixture of the ocean. Here the Doctor produced certain specimens of rock, which he submitted to the learned present, inviting their attention to its character, and asking, with great mineralogical confidence, if it did not intimately resemble a well-known stratum of a mountain within two leagues of the very spot they were in? This

triumphant proof of the truth of his proposition was admirably received; and the philosopher was in particular rewarded by the smiles of all the females present; for ladies usually are well pleased with any demonstration that saves them the trouble of comparison and reflection.

Before quitting this branch of his subject, the Doctor observed that, interesting as were these proofs of the accuracy of their histories, and of the great revolutions of inanimate nature, there was another topic connected with St. Helena, which, he felt certain, would excite a lively emotion in the breasts of all who heard him. At the period of his visit, the island had been selected as a prison for a great conqueror and disturber of his fellow-creatures; and public attention was much drawn to the spot by this circumstance, few *men* coming there who did not permit all their thoughts to be absorbed by the past acts, and the present fortunes, of the individual in question. As for himself, there was of course no great attraction in any

events connected with mere human greatness, the little struggles and convulsions of the species containing no particular interest for a devotee of the monikin philosophy; but the manner in which all eyes were drawn in one direction, afforded him a liberty of action that he had eagerly improved, in a way that, he humbly trusted, would not be thought altogether unworthy of their approbation. While searching for minerals among the cliffs, his attention had been drawn to certain animals that are called monkeys, in the language of those regions; which, from very obvious affinities of a physical nature, there was some reason to believe might have had a common origin with the monikin species. The academy would at once see how desirable it was to learn all the interesting particulars of the habits, language, customs, marriages, funerals, religious opinions, traditions, state of learning, and general moral condition of this interesting people, with a view to ascertain whether they were merely one of

those abortions to which, it is known, nature is in the practice of giving birth, in the outward appearance of their own species,—or whether, as several of their best writers had plausibly maintained, they were indeed a portion of those whom they had been in the habit of designating as the "Lost Monikins." He had succeeded in getting access to a family of these beings, and in passing an entire day in their society. The result of his investigations was, that they were truly of the monikin family, retaining much of the ingenuity and many of the spiri tual notions of their origin, but with their intellects sadly blunted, and perhaps their improvable qualities annihilated, by the concussion of the elements that had scattered them abroad upon the face of the earth, houseless, hopeless, regionless wanderers. The vicissitudes of climate, and a great alteration of habits, had certainly wrought some physical changes; but there still remained a sufficient scientific identity to prove they were monikins. They

even retained, in their traditions, some glimmerings of the awful catastrophe by which they were separated from the rest of their fellow-creatures; but they necessarily were vague and profitless. Having touched on several other points connected with these very extraordinary facts, the Doctor concluded by saying that he saw but one way in which this discovery could be turned to any practical advantage, beyond the confirmation it afforded of the truth of their own annals. He suggested the expediency of fitting out expeditions to go among these islands and seize upon a number of families, which, being transported into Leaphigh, might found a race of useful menials, who, while they would prove much less troublesome than those who possessed all the knowledge of monikins, would probably be found more intelligent and useful than any domestic animal which they at present owned. This happy application of the subject met with decided commendation. I observed that most of the

elderly females put their heads together on the spot, and appeared to be congratulating each other on the prospect of being speedily relieved from their household cares.

Dr. Reasono next spoke of his departure from St. Helena, and of his finally landing in Portugal. Here, agreeably to his account, he engaged certain Savoyards to act as his *couriers* and guides, during a tour he intended to make through Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, France, &c. &c. &c. I listened with admiration. Never before had I so lively a perception of the vast difference that is effected in our views of matters and things by the agency of an active philosophy, as was now furnished by the narrative of the speaker. Instead of complaining of the treatment he had received, and of the degradations to which he and his companions had been subjected, he spoke of it all as so much prudent submission, on his part, to the customs of the countries in which he happened to find himself, and as the means of ascertaining a thousand

important facts, both moral and physical, which he proposed to submit to the academy in a separate memoir, another day. At present, he was admonished by the clock to conclude, and he would therefore hasten his narrative as much as possible.

The Doctor, with great ingenuousness, confessed that he could gladly have passed a year or two longer in those distant and highly interesting portions of the earth; but he could not forget that he had a duty to perform to the friends of two noble families. The Journey of Trial had been completed under the most favourable auspices, and the ladies naturally became anxious to return home. They had accordingly passed into Great Britain, a country remarkable for maritime enterprise, where he immediately commenced the necessary preparations for their sailing. A ship had been procured under the promise of allowing it to be freighted, free of custom-house charges, with the products of Leaphigh. A thousand appli-

cations had been made to him for permission to be of his party, the natives naturally enough wishing to see a civilized country; but prudence had admonished him to accept of those only who were the most likely to make themselves useful. The King of Great Britain, no mean prince in human estimation, had committed his only son and heir-apparent to his care, with a view to his improvement by travelling; and the Lord High Admiral himself had asked permission to take command of an expedition that was of so much importance to knowledge in general, and to his own profession in particular.

Here Dr. Reasono ascended our tribune, and presented Bob to the academy as the Prince-Royal of Great Britain, and Captain Poke as her Lord High Admiral! He pointed out certain peculiarities about the former, the smut in particular, which had become pretty effectually incorporated with the skin, as so many signs of royal birth; and ordering the youngster to

uncase, he drew forth the union-jack that the lad carefully kept about his nether part as a fender, and exhibited it as his armorial bearings — a modification of its uses that would not have been very far out of the way, had another limb been substituted for the agent. As for Captain Poke, he requested the academicians to study his nautical air, in general, as furnishing sufficient proof of his pursuits, and of the ordinary appearance of human seamen.

Turning to me, I was then introduced to all present as the travelling governor and personal attendant of Bob, and as a very respectable person in my way. He added, that he believed, also, I had some pretension to be the discoverer of something that was called the Social-stake System; which, he dared to say, was a very creditable discovery for one of my opportunities.

By this prompt substitution of employments, I found I had effectually changed places with the cabin-boy; who, instead of waiting on me,

was, in future, to receive that trifling attention at my hands. The mates were presented as two rear-admirals at nurse, and the crew was said to be composed of so many post-captains in the navy of Great Britain. To conclude, the audience was given to understand that we were all brought to Leaphigh, like the minerals from St. Helena, as so many specimens of the human species!

I shall not deny that Dr. Reasono had taken a very different view of himself and his acts, as well as of me and my acts, from those I had all along entertained myself; and yet, on reflection, it is so common to consider ourselves in lights very different from those in which we are viewed by others, that I could not, on the whole, complain as much of his representations as I had at first thought it might become me to do. At all events, I was completely spared the necessity of blushing for my generosity and disinterestedness, and in other respects was saved the pain of viewing any part

of my own conduct under a consciousness of its attracting attention by its singularity on the score of merit. I must say, nevertheless, that I was both surprised and a little indignant; but the sudden and unexpected turn that had been given to the whole affair threw me so completely off my centre, that, for the life of me, I could not say a word in my own behalf. To make the matter worse, that monkey Chatterino nodded to me kindly, as if he would show the spectators that, on the whole, he thought me a very good sort of a fellow!

After the lecture was over, the audience approached to examine us, taking a great many amiable liberties with our persons, and otherwise showing that we were deemed curiosities worthy of their study. The King's cousin, too, was not neglectful of us; but he had it announced to the assembly that we were entirely welcome to Leaphigh; and that, out of respect to Dr. Reasono, we were all promoted to the dignity of "Honorary Monikins," for

the entire period of our stay in the country. He also caused it to be proclaimed, that if the boys annoyed us in the streets, they should have their tails curled with birch curling-irons. As for the doctor himself, it was proclaimed that, in addition to his former title of F. U. D. G. E., he was now preferred to be even M. O. R. E., and that he was also raised to the dignity of an H. O. A. X., the very highest honour to which any *savant* of Leaphigh could attain.

At length curiosity was appeased, and we were permitted to descend from the tribune; the company ceasing to attend to us, in order to pay attention to each other. As I had time, now, to recollect myself, I did not lose a moment in taking the two mates aside, to present a proposition that we should go, in a body, before a notary, and enter a protest against the unaccountable errors into which Dr. Reasono had permitted himself to fall, whereby the truth was violated, the rights of persons invaded, humanity dishonoured, and the

Leaphigh philosophy misled. I cannot say that my arguments were well received; and I was compelled to quit the two rear-admirals, and to go in quest of the crew, with the conviction that the former had been purchased. An appeal to the reckless, frank, loyal natures of the common seamen, I thought, would not fail to meet with better success. Here, too, I was fated to encounter disappointment. The men swore a few hearty oaths, and affirmed that Leaphigh was a good country. They expected pay and rations, as a matter of course, in proportion to their new rank; and having tasted the sweets of command, they were not yet prepared to quarrel with their good fortune, and to lay aside the silver tankard for the tar-pot.

Quitting the rascals, whose heads really appeared to be turned by their unexpected elevation, I determined to hunt up Bob, and, by dint of Mr. Poke's ordinary application, compel him, at least, in despite of the union-jack,

to return to a sense of his duty, and to reassume his old post as the servitor of my wants. I found the little blackguard in the midst of a bevy of monikinas of all ages, who were lavishing their attentions on his worthless person, and otherwise doing all they could to eradicate everything like humility, or any good quality that might happen to remain in him. He certainly gave me a fair opportunity to commence the attack, for he wore the union-jack over his shoulder, in the manner of a royal mantle, while the females of inferior rank pressed about him to kiss its hem! The air with which he received this adulation, fairly imposed on even me; and, fearful that the monikinas might mob me, should I attempt to undeceive them,—for monikinas, let them be of what species they may, always hug a delusion, —I abandoned my hostile intentions, for the moment, and hurried after Mr. Poke, little doubting my ability of bringing one of his natural rectitude of mind to a right way of thinking.

The Captain heard my remonstrances with a decent respect. He even seemed to enter into my feelings with a proper degree of sympathy. He very frankly admitted that I had not been well treated by Dr. Reasono, and he appeared to think that a private conversation with that individual might yet possibly have the effect of bringing him to a more reasonable representation of facts. But, as to any sudden and violent appeal to public opinion for justice, or an ill-advised recourse to a notary, he strenuously objected to both. The purport of his remarks was somewhat as follows:—

"He was not acquainted with the Leaphigh law of protests, and, in consequence, we might spend our money in paying fees, without reaping any advantage; the Doctor, moreover, was a philosopher, an F. U. D. G. E., and an H. O. A. X., and these were fearful odds to contend against in any country, and more especially in a foreign country; he had an innate dislike for lawsuits; the loss of my

station was certainly a grievance, but, still, it might be borne ; as for himself, he never asked for the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, but, as it had been thrust upon him, why, he would do his best to sustain the character; he knew his friends at Stunin'tun would be glad to hear of his promotion, for, though in his country there were no lords, nor even any admirals, his countrymen were always exceedingly rejoiced whenever any of their fellow-citizens were preferred to those stations by anybody but themselves, seeming to think an honour conferred on one, was an honour conferred on the whole nation: he liked to confer honour on his own nation, for no people on 'arth tuck up a notion of this sort, and divided it among themselves in a way to give each a share, sooner than the people of the States, though they were very cautious about leaving any portion of the credit in first hands, and, therefore, he was disposed to keep as much as he could, while it was in

his power; he believed he was a better seaman than most of the Lord High Admirals who had gone before him, and he had no fears on that score; he wondered whether his promotion made Miss Poke Lady High Admiral; as I seemed greatly *put out* about my own rank, he would give me the acting appointment of a chaplain (he didn't think I was qualified to be a sea-officer), and no doubt I had interest enough at home to get it confirmed: a great statesman in his country had said, "that few die and none resigned," and he didn't like to be the first to set new fashions; for his part, he rather looked upon Dr. Reasono as his friend, and it was unpleasant to quarrel with one's friends; he was willing to do anything, in reason, but resign, and if I could persuade the Doctor to say he had fallen into a mistake in my particular case, and that I had been sent to Leaphigh as a Lord High Ambassador, Lord High Priest, or Lord High anything else, except Lord High Admiral,

why, he was ready to swear to it—though he now gave notice that, in the event of such an arrangement, he should claim to rank me in virtue of the date of his own commission; if he gave up his appointment a minute sooner than was absolutely necessary, he should lose his own self-respect, and never dare look Miss Poke in the face again; on the whole, he should do no such thing; and, finally, he wished me a good morning, as he was about to make a call on the Lord High Admiral of Leaphigh."

CHAPTER VI.

NEW LORDS, NEW LAWS — GYRATION, ROTATION, AND ANOTHER NATION;—ALSO AN INVITATION.

I FELT that my situation had now become exceedingly peculiar. It is true that my modesty had been unexpectedly spared by the very ingenious turn Dr. Reasono had given to the history of our connexion with each other; but I could not see that I had gained any other advantage by the expedient. All my own species had, in a sense, cut me; and I was obliged to turn despondingly, and not without humiliation, towards the inn, where the banquet ordered by Mr. Poke waited our appearance.

I had reached the great square, when a tap

on the knee drew my attention to one at my side. The applicant for notice was a monikin, who had all the physical peculiarities of a subject of Leaphigh, and yet who was to be distinguished from most of the inhabitants of that country, by a longer and less cultivated nap to his natural garment, greater shrewdness about the expression of the eyes and the mouth, a general air of business, and, for a novelty, a bob-*cauda*. He was accompanied by positively the least well-favoured being of the species I had yet seen. I was addressed by the former.

"Good morning, Sir John Goldencalf," he commenced, with a sort of jerk, that I afterwards learned was meant for a diplomatic salutation; "you have not met with the very best treatment to-day, and I have been waiting for a good opportunity to make my condolences, and to offer my services."

"Sir, you are only too good. I do feel a little wronged; and I must say, sympathy is most grateful to my feelings. You will, how-

ever, allow me to express my surprise at your being acquainted with my real name, as well as with my misfortunes?"

"Why, sir, to own the truth, I belong to an examining people. The population is very much scattered in my country, and we have fallen into a practice of inquiry that is very natural to such a state of things. I think you must have observed that in passing along a common highway, you rarely meet another without a nod; while thousands are met in a crowded street without even a glance of the eye. We develope this principle, sir; and never let any fact escape us, for the want of a laudable curiosity."

"You are not a subject of Leaphigh, then?"

"God forbid!—No, sir, I am a citizen of Leaplow, a great and a glorious republic that lies three days' sail from this island; a new nation, which is in the enjoyment of all the advantages of youth and vigour, and which is a perfect miracle for the boldness of its con-

ceptions, the purity of its institutions, and its sacred respect for the rights of monikins. I have the honour to be, moreover, the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the republic to the King of Leaphigh, a nation from which we originally sprang, but which we have left far behind us in the race of glory and usefulness. I ought to acquaint you with my name, sir, in return for the advantage I possess on this head, in relation to yourself."

Hereupon my new acquaintance put into my hand one of his visiting-cards, which contained as follows: —

General-Commodore-Judge-Colonel,
PEOPLE'S FRIEND:
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Leaplow near his Majesty the King of Leaphigh.

"Sir," said I, pulling off my hat with a profound reverence, "I was not aware to whom I had the honour of speaking. You appear to fill a variety of employments, and, I make no doubt, with equal skill."

"Yes, sir, I believe I am about as good at one of my professions, as at another."

"You will permit me to observe, however, General—a—a—Judge—a—a—I scarcely know, dear sir, which of these titles is the most to your taste?"

"Use which you please, sir. I began with General, but had got as low as Colonel before I left home. People's Friend is the only appellation of which I am at all tenacious. Call me People's Friend, sir, and you may call me anything else you find most convenient."

"Sir, you are only too obliging. May I venture to ask if you have really, *propriâ personâ*, filled all these different stations in life?"

"Certainly, sir—I hope you do not mistake me for an impostor!"

"As far from it as possible. But a judge and a commodore, for instance, are characters whose duties are so utterly at variance, in human affairs, that I will allow I find the conjunction, even in a monikin, a little extraordinary."

"Not at all, sir. I was duly elected to each, served my time out in them all, and have honourable discharges to show in every instance."

"You must have found some perplexity in the performance of duties so very different?"

"Ah!—I see you have been long enough in Leaphigh to imbibe some of its prejudices! It is a sad country for prejudice. I got my foot mired in some of them myself, as soon as it touched the land. Why, sir, my card is an illustration of what we call, in Leaplow, rotation in office."

"Rotation in office!"

"Yes, sir, rotation in office; a system that we invented for our personal convenience, and which is likely to be firm, as it depends on principles that are eternal."

"Will you suffer me to inquire, colonel, if it has any affinity to the Social-Stake system?"

"Not in the least. That, as I understand it, is a stationary, while this is a rotatory

system. Nothing is simpler. We have in Leaplow two enormous boxes made in the form of wheels. Into one we put the names of the citizens, and into the other the names of the offices. We then draw forth, in the manner of a lottery; and the thing is settled for a twelvemonth."

"I find this rotatory plan exceedingly simple,—pray, sir, does it work as well as it promises?"

"To perfection.—We grease the wheels, of course, periodically."

"And are not frauds sometimes committed by those who are selected to draw the tickets?"

"Oh! they are chosen precisely in the same way."

"But those who draw *their* tickets?"

"All rotatory—they are drawn exactly on the same principle."

"But there must be a beginning. Those, again, who draw *their* tickets—they may betray their trusts?"

"Impossible—*they* are always the most

Patriotic Patriots of the land! No, no, sir — we are not such dunces as to leave anything to corruption. Chance does it all. Chance makes me a commodore to-day — a judge to-morrow. Chance makes the lottery boys, and chance makes the patriots. It is necessary to see in order to understand how much purer and useful is your chance patriot, for instance, than one that is bred to the calling."

"Why, this savours, after all, of the doctrine of descents, which is little more than a matter of chance."

"It would be so, sir, I confess, were it not that our chances centre in a system of patriots. Our approved patriots are our guarantees against abuses——"

"Hem!" — interrupted the companion of Commodore People's Friend, with an awkward distinctness, as if to recall himself to our recollection.

"Sir John, I crave pardon for great remiss-

ness—allow me to present my fellow-citizen, Brigadier Downright, a gentleman who is on his travels, like yourself; and as excellent a fellow as is to be found in the whole monikin region."

"Brigadier Downright, I crave the honour of your acquaintance.—But, gentlemen, I too have been sadly negligent of politeness. A banquet that has cost a hundred promises is waiting my appearance; and, as some of the expected guests are unavoidably absent, if you would favour me with your excellent society, we might spend an agreeable hour in the further discussion of these important interests."

As neither of the strangers made the smallest objection to the proposal, we were all soon comfortably seated at the dinner-table. The Commodore, who, it would seem, was habitually well fed, merely paid a little complimentary attention to the banquet; but Mr. Downright attacked it tooth and nail, and I had no great reason to regret the absence of Mr. Poke. In

the mean time, the conversation did not flag.

"I think I understand the outline of your system, Judge People's Friend," I resumed, "with the exception of the part that relates to the Patriots. Would it be asking too much to request a little explanation on that particular point?"

"Not in the least, sir. Our social arrangement is founded on a hint from nature; a base, as you will concede, that is broad enough to sustain the universe. As a people, we are a hive that formerly swarmed from Leaphigh; and finding ourselves free and independent, we set about forthwith building the social system on not only a sure foundation, but on sure principles. Observing that nature dealt in duplicates, we pursued the hint, as the leading idea——"

"In duplicates, commodore!"

"Certainly, Sir John—a monikin has two eyes, two ears, two nostrils, two lungs, two arms,

two hands, two legs, two feet, and so on to the end of the chapter. On this hint, we ordered that there should be drawn, morally, in every district of Leaplow, two distinct and separate lines, that should run at right angles to each other. These were termed the "political landmarks" of the country; and it was expected that every citizen should range himself along one or the other. All this you will understand, however, was a moral contrivance, not a physical one."

"Is the obligation of this moral contrivance imperative?"

"Not legally, it is true; but then, he who does not respect it is like one who is out of fashion, and he is so generally esteemed a poor devil, that the usage has a good deal more than the force of a law. At first, it was intended to make it a part of the constitution; but one of our most experienced statesmen so clearly demonstrated that, by so doing, we should not only weaken the nature of the obligation, but most

probably raise a party against it, that the idea was abandoned. Indeed, if anything, both the letter and the spirit of the fundamental law have been made to lean a little against the practice; but having been cleverly introduced, in the way of construction, it is now bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. Well, sir, these two great political landmarks being fairly drawn, the first effort of one who aspires to be thought a Patriot, is to acquire the practice of 'toeing the mark' promptly and with facility. But should I illustrate my positions by a few experiments, you might comprehend the subject all the better.—For though, in fact, the true evolutions are purely moral, as I have just had the honour to explain, yet we have instituted a physical parallel that is very congenial to our habits, with which the neophyte always commences."

Here the Commodore took a bit of chalk and drew two very distinct lines, crossing each other at right angles, through the centre of the

room. When this was done, he placed his feet together, and then he invited me to examine if it were possible to see any part of the planks between the extremities of his toes and the lines. After a rigid look, I was compelled to confess it was not.

" This is what we call ' toeing the mark ;' it is ' Social Position No. 1.' Almost every citizen gets to be expert in practising it, on one or the other of the two great political lines. After this, he who would push his fortunes further, commences his career on the great rotatory principle."

" Your pardon, commodore ; — we call the word rotary, in English."

" Sir, it is not expressive enough for our meaning ; and therefore we term it ' rotatory.' I shall now give you an example of Position No. 2."

Here the Commodore made a spring, throwing his body, as a soldier would express it, to the " right about," bringing, at the same time,

his feet entirely on the other side of the line; always rigidly toeing the mark.

"Sir," said I, "this was extremely well done; but is this evolution as useful as certainly it is dexterous?"

"It has the advantage of changing front, Sir John; a manœuvre quite as useful in politics as in war. Most all in the line get to practise this, too, as my friend Downright, there, could show you, were he so disposed."

"I don't like to expose my flanks, or my rear, more than another," growled the Brigadier.

"If agreeable, I will now show you Gyration 2d, or Position No. 3."

On my expressing a strong desire to see it, the Commodore put himself again in Position No. 1; and then he threw what Captain Poke was in the habit of calling a 'flap-jack,' or a summerset; coming down in a way tenaciously to toe the mark.

I was much gratified with the dexterity of

the Commodore, and frankly expressed as much; inquiring, at the same time, if many attained to the same skill. Both the Commodore and the Brigadier laughed at the simplicity of the question; the former answering that the people of Leaplow were exceedingly active and adventurous, and both lines had got to be so expert, that, at the word of command, they would throw their summersets in as exact time, and quite as promptly, as a regiment of guards would go through the evolution of slapping their cartridge-boxes.

"What, sir," I exclaimed, in admiration, "the entire population!"

"Virtually, sir. There is, now and then, a stumbler; but he is instantly kicked out of sight, and uniformly counts for nothing."

"But as yet, commodore, your evolutions are altogether too general to admit of the chance selection of patriots, since patriotism is usually a monopoly."

"Very true, Sir John; I shall therefore

come to the main point without delay. Thus far, it is pretty much an affair of the whole population, as you say; few refusing to toe the mark, or to throw the necessary flap-jacks, as you have ingeniously termed them. The lines, as you may perceive, cross each other at right angles; and there is consequently some crowding, and, occasionally, a good deal of jostling, at and near the point of junction. We begin to term a monikin a Patriot, when he can perform this evolution."

Here the Commodore threw his heels into the air with such rapidity that I could not very well tell what he was about, though it was sufficiently apparent that he was acting entirely on the rotatory principle. I observed that he alighted, with singular accuracy, on the very spot where he had stood before, toeing the mark with beautiful precision.

"That is what we call Gyration 3rd, or Position No. 4. He who can execute it is considered an adept in our politics; and he inva-

riably takes his position near the enemy, or at the junction of the hostile lines."

"How, sir, are these lines, then, manned as they are with citizens of the same country, deemed hostile!"

"Are cats and dogs hostile, sir?—Certainly, although standing, as it might be, face to face, acting on precisely the same principle, or the rotatory impulse, and professing to have exactly the same object in view, viz. the common good, they are social, political, and I might almost say, the moral antipodes of each other. They rarely intermarry, never extol, and frequently refuse to speak to one another. In short, as the Brigadier could tell you, if he were so disposed, they are antagonist, body and soul. To be plain, sir, they are enemies."

"This is very extraordinary for fellow-citizens!"

"'Tis the monikin nature," observed Mr. Downright; "no doubt, sir, men are much wiser?"

As I did not wish to divert the discourse from the present topic, I merely bowed to this remark, and begged the Judge to proceed.

"Well, sir," continued the latter, "you can easily imagine that they who are placed near the point where the two lines meet have no sinecures. To speak the truth, they blackguard each other with all their abilities, he who manifests the most inventive genius in this high accomplishment being commonly thought the cleverest fellow. Now, sir, none but a patriot could, in the nature of things, endure this without some other motive than his country's good, and so we esteem them."

"But the most Patriotic Patriots, Commodore?"

The minister of Leaphigh now toed the mark again, placing himself within a few feet of the point of junction between the two lines; and then he begged me to pay particular attention to his evolution. When all was ready, the Commodore threw himself, as it were,

invisibly into the air again, head-over-heels, so far as I could discover, and alighted on the antagonist line, toeing the mark with a most astonishing particularity. It was a clever gyration, beyond a doubt; and the performer looked towards me, as if inviting commendation.

"Admirably executed, Judge, and in a way to induce one to believe that you must have paid great attention to the practice."

"I have performed this manœuvre, Sir John, five times in real life; and my claim to be a Patriotic Patriot is founded on its invariable success. A single false step might have ruined me; but, as you say, practice makes perfect, and perfection is the parent of success."

"And yet I do not rightly understand how so sudden a desertion of one's own side, to go over, in this active manner, head-over-heels, I may say, to another side, constitutes a fair claim to be deemed so pure a character as that of a patriot."

"What, sir, is not he who throws himself

defenceless into the very middle of the ranks of the enemy, the hero of the combat? Now, as this is a political struggle, and not a warlike struggle, but one in which the good of the country is alone uppermost, the monikin who thus manifests the greatest devotion to the cause must be the purest patriot. I give you my honour, sir, all my own claims are founded entirely on this particular merit."

"He is right, Sir John; you may believe every word he says," observed the Brigadier, nodding.

"I begin to understand your system, which is certainly well adapted to the monikin habits, and must give rise to a noble emulation in the practice of the rotatory principle. But I understood you to say, colonel, that the people of Leaplow are from the hive of Leaphigh?"

"Just so, sir."

"How happens it then, that you dock yourselves of the nobler member, while the inhabitants of this country cherish it as the

apple of the eye—nay, as the seat of reason itself?"

"You allude to our tails?—Why, sir, nature has dealt out these ornaments with a very unequal hand, as you may perceive on looking out of the window. We agree that the tail is the seat of reason, and that the extremities are the most intellectual parts; but, as governments are framed to equalize these natural inequalities, we denounce them as anti-republican. The law requires, therefore, that every citizen, on attaining his majority, shall be docked agreeably to a standard measure that is kept in each district. Without some such expedient, there might be an aristocracy of intellect among us, and there would be an end of our liberties. This is the qualification of a voter, too, and of course we all seek to obtain it."

Here the Brigadier leaned across the table and whispered that a great patriot, on a most trying occasion, had succeeded in throwing a

summerset out of his own into the antagonist line, and that, as he carried with him all the sacred principles for which his party had been furiously contending for many years, he had been unceremoniously dragged back by his tail, which unfortunately came within reach of those quondam friends on whom he had turned his back; and that the law had, in truth, been passed in the interests of the patriots. He added, that the lawful measure allowed a longer stump than was commonly used; but that it was considered under-bred for any one to wear a dock that reached more than two inches and three quarters of an inch into society, and that most of their political aspirants, in particular, chose to limit themselves to one inch and one quarter of an inch, as a proof of excessive humility.

Thanking Mr. Downright for his clear and sensible explanation, the conversation was resumed.

"I had thought, as your institutions are

founded on reason and nature, Judge," I continued, " that you would be more disposed to cultivate this member than to mutilate it; and this the more especially, as I understand all monikins believe it to be the very quintessence of reason."

" No doubt, sir; we do cultivate our tails, but it is on the vegetable principle, or as the skilful gardener lops the branch that it may throw out more vigorous shoots. It is true, we do not expect to see the tail itself sprouting out anew; but then we look to the increase of its reason, and to its more general diffusion in society. The extremities of our *caudæ*, as fast as they are lopped, are sent to a great intellectual mill, where the mind is extracted from the matter, and the former is sold, on public account, to the editors of the daily journals. This is the reason our Leaplow journalists are so distinguished for their ingenuity and capacity, and the reason, too, why they so faithfully represent the average of the Leaplow knowledge."

"And honesty, you ought to add," growled the Brigadier.

"I see the beauty of the system, Judge, and very beautiful it is! This essence of lopped tails represents the average of Leaplow brains, being a compound of all the tails of the country; and as a daily journal is addressed to the average intellect of the community, there is a singular fitness between the readers and the readees. To complete my stock of information on this head, however, will you just allow me to inquire what is the effect of this system on the totality of Leaplow intelligence?"

"Wonderful! As we are a commonwealth, it is necessary to have a unity of sentiment on all leading matters; and by thus compounding all the extremes of our reasons, we get what is called 'public opinion;' which public opinion is uttered through the public journals——"

"And a most Patriotic Patriot is always chosen to be the inspector of the mill," interrupted the Brigadier.

"Better and better! you send all the finer parts of your several intellects to be ground up and kneaded together; the compound is sold to the journalists, who utter it anew, as the results of the united wisdom of the country!"

"Or, as public opinion. We make great account of reason in all our affairs, invariably calling ourselves the most enlightened nation on earth; but then we are especially averse to anything like an insulated effort of the mind, which is offensive, anti-republican, aristocratic, and dangerous. We put all our trust in this representation of brains, which is singularly in accordance with the fundamental base of our society, as you must perceive."

"We are a commercial people, too," put in the Brigadier; "and being much accustomed to the laws of insurance, we like to deal in averages."

"Very true, brother Downright; very true. We are particularly averse to anything like inequality. Ods zooks! it is almost as great

an offence for a monikin to know more than his neighbours, as it is for him to act on his own impulses. No, no!—we are truly a free and an independent commonwealth, and we hold every citizen as amenable to public opinion, in all he does, says, thinks, or wishes."

"Pray, sir, do both of the two great political lines send their tails to the same mills, and respect the same general sentiments?"

"No, sir; we have two public opinions in Leaplow."

"*Two* public opinions!"

"Certainly, sir; the horizontal and the perpendicular."

"This infers a most extraordinary fertility of thought, and one that I hold to be almost impossible!"

Here the Commodore and the Brigadier incontinently both laughed as hard as they could; and that, too, directly in my face.

"Dear me, Sir John!—why, my dear Sir John! you are really the drollest creature!"—

gasped the Judge, holding his sides,—"the very funniest question I have ev—ev—ever encountered!" He now stopped to wipe his eyes; after which he was better able to express himself. "The same public opinion, forsooth!—Dear me—dear me, that I should not have made myself understood!—I commenced, my good Sir John, by telling you that we deal in duplicates, on a hint from Nature; and that we act on the rotatory principle. In obedience to the first, we have always *two* public opinions; and although the great political landmarks are drawn in what may be called a stationary sense, they, too, are in truth rotatory. One, which is thought to lie parallel to the fundamental law, or the constitutional meridian of the country, is termed the horizontal, and the other the perpendicular line. Now, as nothing is really stationary in Leaplow, these two great landmarks are always acting, likewise, on the rotatory principle, changing places periodically; the perpendicular becom-

ing the horizontal, and *vice versâ ;* they who toe their respective marks necessarily taking new views of things as they vary the line of sight. These great revolutions are, however, very slow, and are quite as imperceptible to those who accompany them, as are the revolutions of our planet to its inhabitants."

" And the gyrations of the Patriots, of which the Judge has just now spoken," added the Brigadier, " are much the same as the eccentric movements of the comets that embellish the solar system, without deranging it by their uncertain courses."

" No, sir, we should be poorly off indeed if we had but *one* public opinion," resumed the Judge. " Ecod ! I do not know what would become of the most Patriotic Patriots, in such a dilemma ! "

" Pray, sir, let me ask, as you draw for places, if you have as many places as there are citizens ?"

" Certainly, sir. Our places are divided,

firstly, into the two great subdivisions of the 'inner' and the 'outer.' Those who toe the mark on the most popular line occupy the former, and those who toe the mark on the least popular line take all the rest, as a matter of course. The first, however, it is necessary to explain, are the only places worth having. As great care is had to keep the community pretty nearly equally divided——"

"Excuse the interruption — but in what manner is this effected?"

"Why, as only a certain number can *toe the mark*, we count all those who are not successful in getting up to the line as outcasts; and, after fruitlessly hanging about our skirts for a time, they invariably go over to the other line; since it is better to be first in a village than second in Rome. We thus keep up something like an equilibrium in the state, which, as you must know, is necessary to liberty. The minority take the outer places, and all the inner are left to the majority. Then comes another sub-

division of the places; that is to say, one division is formed of the honorary, and another of the profitable places. The honorary, or about nine-tenths of all the inner places, are divided, with great impartiality, among the mass of those who have toed the mark on the strongest side, and who usually are satisfied with the glory of the victory. The names of the remainder are put into the wheels to be drawn for against the prizes, on the rotatory principle."

"And the patriots, sir,—are they included in this chance-medley?"

"Far from it. As a reward for their dangers, they have a little wheel to themselves; although they, also, are compelled to submit to the rotatory principle. Their cases differ from those of the others merely in the fact that they always get *something*."

I would gladly have pursued the conversation, which was opening a flood of light upon my political understanding; but, just then, a

fellow with the air of a footman entered, carrying a packet tied to the end of his *cauda*. Turning round, he presented his burthen with profound respect and withdrew. I found that the packet contained three notes, with the following addresses:—

"To his Royal Highness Bob, Prince of Wales, &c. &c."
"To my Lord High Admiral Poke, &c. &c."
"To Master Goldencalf, Clerk, &c. &c."

Apologizing to my guests, the seal of my own note was eagerly opened. It read as follows:—

"The Right Honourable the Earl of Chatterino, Lord of the Bedchamber in waiting on his Majesty, informs Master John Goldencalf, Clerk, that he is commanded to attend the drawing-room this evening, when the nuptial ceremony will take place between the Earl of

Chatterino and the Lady Chatterissa, the first Maid of Honour to her Majesty the Queen.

"N. B. *The gentlemen will appear in full dress.*"

On explaining the contents of my note to the Judge, he informed me that he was aware of the approaching ceremony, as he had also an invitation to be present, in his official character. I begged, as a particular favour, England having no representative at Leaphigh, that he would do me the honour to present me, in his capacity of a foreign minister. The Envoy made no sort of objection, and I inquired as to the costume necessary to be observed; as, so far as I had seen, it was good-breeding at Leaphigh to go naked. The Envoy had the goodness to explain, that although, in point of mere attire, clothing was extremely offensive to the people of both Leaphigh and Leaplow, yet, in the former country, no one could present himself at court, foreign ministers except-

ed, without a *cauda*. As soon as we understood each other on these points, we separated, with an understanding that I was to be in readiness (together with my companions, of whose interest I had not been forgetful) to attend the Envoy and the Brigadier, when they should call for me, at an hour that was named.

CHAPTER VII.

A COURT, A COURT-DRESS, AND A COURTIER — JUSTICE IN VARIOUS ASPECTS, AS WELL AS HONOUR.

My guests were no sooner gone, than I sent for the landlady, to inquire if any court-dresses were to be had in the neighbourhood. She told me, plenty might certainly be had that were suited to the monikin dimensions, but she much doubted whether there was a tail in all Leaphigh, natural or artificial, that was at all fit for a person of my stature. This was vexatious; and I was in a brown-study, calling up all my resources for the occasion, when Mr. Poke entered the inn, carrying in his hand two as formidable ox-tails as I remember ever to have seen. Throwing one towards me, he said the Lord High Admiral of Leaphigh had acquainted

him that there was an invitation out for the Prince and himself, as well as for the governor of the former, to be present at court within an hour. He had hurried off from what he called a very good dinner, considering there was nothing solid, (the Captain was particularly fond of pickled pork,) to let me know the honour that was intended us; and, on the way home, he had fallen in with Dr. Reasono, who, on being acquainted with his errand, had not failed to point out the necessity of the whole party coming *en habit de cour*. Here was a dilemma, with a vengeance; for the first idea that struck the Captain was "the utter impossibility of finding anything in this way, in all Leaphigh, befitting a Lord High Admiral of his length of keel; for, as to going in an ordinary monikin *queue*, why, he should look like a three-decked ship, with a brig's spar stepped for a lower mast!" Dr. Reasono, however, had kindly removed the embarrassment, by conducting him to the Cabinet of Natural

History, where three suitable appendages had been found, viz. two fine relics of oxen,* and another, a capital specimen, that had formerly been the mental lever, or, as the Captain expressed it, "the steering-oar," of a kangaroo. The latter had been sent off, express, with a kind consideration for the honour of Great Britain, to Prince Bob, who was at a villa of one of the royal family, in the neighbourhood of Aggregation.

I was greatly indebted to Noah, for his dexterity in helping me to a good fit with my court-dress. There was not time for much particularity, for we were in momentary expectation of Judge People's Friend's return. All we could do, therefore, was to make a belt of canvass, (the Captain being always provided with needles, palm, &c. in his bag,) and to introduce the smaller end of the tail through a hole in the belt, drawing its base tight up to the cloth, which, in its turn, was stitched round

* *Caudæ Bovum.*—Buf.

our bodies. This was but an indifferent substitute for the natural appendage, it is true; and the hide had got to be so dry and unyielding, that it was impossible for the least observant person to imagine there was a particle of brains in it. The arrangement had also another disadvantage. The *cauda* stuck out nearly at right angles with the position of the body, and, besides occupying much more space than would probably be permitted in the royal presence, "it gave any jackanapes," as Noah observed, "the great advantage over us, of making us yaw at pleasure, since he might use the outriggers as levers." But a seaman is inexhaustible in expedients. Two "back-stays," or "bob-stays," (for the Captain facetiously gave them both appellations,) were soon "turned in," and the tails were "stayed in, in a way to bring them as upright as try-sail-masts;" to which spars indeed, according to Noah's account of the matter, they bore no small resemblance.

The Envoy Extraordinary of Leaplow, accompanied by his friend Brigadier Downright, arrived just as we were dressed; and a most extraordinary figure the former cut, if truth must be said. Although obliged to be docked, according to the Leaplow law, to six inches, and brought down to a real bob, by both the public opinions of his country, for this was one of the few points on which these antagonist sentiments were perfectly agreed, he now appeared in just the largest brush I remember to have seen appended to a monikin! I felt a strong inclination to joke the rotatory republican on this coquetry; but then I remembered how sweet any stolen indulgence becomes; and, for the life of me, I could not give utterance to a *bon mot*. The elegance of the Minister was rendered the more conspicuous by the simplicity of the Brigadier, who had contrived to *moustache* his dock, a very short one at the best, in such a manner as to render it nearly invisible. On my expressing a doubt to Mr.

Downright about his being admitted in such a costume, he snapped his fingers, and gave me to understand he knew better. He appeared as a Brigadier of Leaplow, (I found afterwards that he was in truth no soldier, but that it was a fashion among his countrymen to travel under the title of Brigadier,) and this was his uniform; and he should like to see the chamberlain who would presume to call in question the state of his wardrobe! As it was no affair of mine, I prudently dropped the subject, and we were soon in the court of the palace.

I shall pass over the parade of guards, the state bands, the sergeant-trumpeters, the crowd of footmen and pages, and conduct the reader at once to the antechamber. Here we found the usual throng composed of those who live in the smiles of princes. There was a great deal of politeness, much bowing and curtseying, and the customary amount of genteel *empressement* to be the first to bask in the sunshine of royalty. Judge People's Friend, in his character of a

foreign minister, was privileged; and we had enjoyed the private *entrée*, and were now, of right, placed nearest to the great doors of the royal apartments. Most of the diplomatic corps were already in attendance, and, quite as a matter of course, there were a great many cordial manifestations of the ardent attachment that bound them and their masters together in the inviolable bonds of a most sacred amity. Judge People's Friend, according to his own account of the matter, represented a great nation — a very great nation, and yet I did not perceive that he met with a warm — a very warm — reception. However, as he seemed satisfied with himself and all around him, it would have been unkind, not to say rude, in a stranger to disturb his self-esteem; and I took especial care, therefore, not to betray, by the slightest hint, my opinion that a good many near his person seemed to think him and his artificial *queue* somewhat in the way. The courtiers of Leaphigh, in particular, who are

an exceedingly exclusive and fastidious corps, appeared to regard the privileges of the Judge with an evil eye; and one or two of them actually held their noses as he flourished his brush a little too near their sacred faces, as if they found its odour out of fashion. While making these silent observations, a page cried out from the lower part of the saloon, "Room for his Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Great Britain!" The crowd opened, and that young blackguard Bob walked up the avenue in state. He wore the turnspit garment as the base of his toilet; but the superstructure was altogether more in keeping with the rascal's assumed character. The union-jack was thrown over his shoulder in the fashion of a mantle, and it was supported by the cook and steward of the Walrus, (two blacks,) both clothed as alligators. The kangaroo's tail was rigged in a way to excite audible evidences of envy in the heart of Mr. Poke. The stepping of it, the Captain whispered, "did the young dog great

credit, for it looked as natural as the best wig he had ever seen; and then, in addition to the bob-stay, it had two guys, which acted like the yoke-lines of a boat, or in such a way, that by holding one in each hand, the brush could be worked 'starboard and larboard' like a rudder." I have taken this description mainly from the mouth of the Captain, and most sincerely do I hope it may be intelligible to the reader.

Bob appeared to be conscious of his advantages; for, on reaching the upper end of the room, he began whisking his tail, and flourishing it to the right and left, so as to excite a very perceptible and lively admiration in the mind of Judge People's Friend, — an effect that so much the more proved the wearer's address, for that high functionary was bound *ex officio* to entertain a sovereign contempt for all courtly vanities. I saw the eye of the Captain kindle, however; and when the insolent young coxcomb actually had the temerity to

turn his back on his master, and to work his brush under his very nose, human nature could endure no more. The right leg of my Lord High Admiral slowly retired, with somewhat of the caution of the cat about to spring; and then it was projected forward, with a rapidity that absolutely lifted the Crown Prince from the floor.

The royal self-possession of Bob could not prevent an exclamation of pain, as well as of surprise; and some of the courtiers ran forward involuntarily to aid him,—for courtiers always run involuntarily to the succour of princes. At least a dozen of the ladies offered their smelling-bottles, with the most amiable assiduity and concern. To prevent any disagreeable consequences, however, I hastened to acquaint the crowd that, in Great Britain, it is the usage to cuff and kick the whole royal family; and that, in short, it is no more than the customary tribute of the subject to the

prince. In proof of what I said, I took good care to give the saucy young scoundrel a touch of my own homage. The monikins, who know that different customs prevail in different nations, hastened to compliment the young scion of royalty in the same manner; and both the cook and steward relieved their *ennui* by falling into the track of imitation. Bob could not stand the last applications; and he was about to beat a retreat, when the master of ceremonies appeared, to conduct him to the royal presence.

The reader is not to be misled by the honours that were paid to the imaginary Crown Prince, and to suppose that the court of Leaphigh entertained any peculiar respect for that of Great Britain. It was merely done on the principle that governed the conduct of our own learned sovereign, King James I., when he refused to see the amiable Pocahontas of Virginia, because she had degraded royalty by

intermarrying with a subject. The respect was paid to the caste, and not to the individual, to his species, or to his nation.

Let his privileges come from what cause they would, Bob was glad enough to get out of the presence of Captain Poke,—who had already pretty plainly threatened, in the Stunnin'tun dialect, to unship his *cauda*,—into that of the Majesty of Leaphigh. A few minutes afterwards, the doors were thrown open, and the whole company advanced into the royal apartments.

The etiquette of the court of Leaphigh differs, in many essential particulars, from the etiquette of any other court in the monikin region. Neither the King nor his royal consort is ever visible to any one in the country, so far as is vulgarly known. On the present occasion, two thrones were placed at opposite extremities of the saloon, and a magnificent crimson damask curtain was so closely drawn before each, that it was quite impossible to

see who occupied it. On the lowest step there stood a chamberlain or a lady of the bedchamber, who, severally, made all the speeches, and otherwise enacted the parts of the illustrious couple. The reader will understand, therefore, that all which is here attributed to either of these great personages was in fact performed by one or the other of the substitutes named, and that I never had the honour of actually standing face to face with their Majesties. Everything that is now about to be related, in short, was actually done by deputy, on the part of the monarch and his wife.

The King himself merely represents a sentiment, all the power belonging to his eldest first-cousin of the masculine gender; and any intercourse with him is entirely of a disinterested or of a sentimental character. He is the head of the church,—after a very secular fashion, however; — all the bishops and clergy therefore got down on their knees and said their prayers; though the Captain suggested that it

might be their catechisms—I never knew which. I observed, also, that all his law-officers did the same thing; but as *they* never pray, and do not know their catechisms, I presume the genuflexions were to beg something better than the places they actually filled. After this came a long train of military and naval officers, who, soldier-like, kissed his paw. The civilians next had a chance, and then it was our turn to be presented.

"I have the honour to present the Lord High Admiral of Great Britain to your Majesty," said Judge People's Friend, who had waived his official privilege of going first, in order to do us this favour in person; it having been decided, on a review of all the principles that touched the case, that nothing human could take precedence of a monikin at court, always making the exception in favour of royalty, as in the case of Prince Bob.

"I am happy to see you at my court, Admiral Poke," the King politely rejoined, mani-

festing the tact of high rank in recognizing Noah by his family name, to the great surprise of the old sealer.

"King!"

"You were about to remark——?" most graciously inquired his Majesty, a little at a loss to understand what his visiter would be at.

"Why, I could not contain my astonishment at your memory, Mr. King, which has enabled you to recall a name that you probably never before heard!"

There was now a great, and, to me, a very unaccountable confusion in the circle. It would seem that the Captain had unwittingly trespassed on two of the most important of the rules of etiquette, in very mortal points. He had confessed to the admission of an emotion as vulgar as that of astonishment in the royal presence, and he had intimated that his Majesty had a memory; a property of the mind which, as it might prove dangerous to the liberties of Leaphigh were it left in the keeping of

any but a responsible minister, it had long been decided it was felony to impute to the King. By the fundamental law of the land, the King's eldest first-cousin of the masculine gender may have as many memories as he pleases, and he may use them, or abuse them, as he shall see fit, both in private or in the public service; but it is held to be utterly unconstitutional and unparliamentary, and, by consequence, extremely under-bred, to insinuate, even in the most remote manner, that the King himself has either a memory, a will, a determination, a resolution, a desire, a conceit, an intention, or, in short, any other intellectual property, that of a "royal pleasure" alone excepted. It is both constitutional and parliamentary to say the King has a "royal pleasure," provided the context goes to prove that this "royal pleasure" is entirely at the disposition of his eldest first-cousin of the masculine gender.

When Mr. Poke was made acquainted with

his mistake, he discovered a proper contrition; and the final decision of the affair was postponed, in order to have the opinion of the judges on the propriety of taking bail, which I promptly offered to put in, in behalf of my old shipmate. This disagreeable little interruption temporarily disposed of, the business of the drawing-room went on.

Noah was next conducted to the queen, who was much inclined (always by deputy) to overlook the little mistake into which he had fallen with her royal consort, and to receive him graciously.

"May it please your Majesty, I have the honour to present to your Majesty's royal notice the Lord Noah Poke, the Lord High Admiral of a distant and but little known country, called Great Britain," said the gold stick of the evening,—Judge People's Friend being afraid of committing Leaplow, and declining to introduce the Captain to any one else.

Lord Poke is a countryman of our royal

cousin the Prince Bob!" observed the Queen, in an exceedingly gracious manner.

"No, marm," put in the sealer promptly, "your cousin Bob is no cousin of mine; and if it were lawful for your Majesty to have a memory, or an inclination, or anything else in that way, I should beg the favour of you to order the young blackguard to be soundly threshed."

The Majesty of Leaphigh stood aghast, by proxy! It would seem Noah had now actually fallen into a more serious error than the mistake he had made with the King. By the law of Leaphigh, the Queen is not a *femme couverte*. She can sue and be sued in her own name, holds her separate estate, without the intervention of trustees, and *is* supposed to have a memory, a will, an inclination, or anything else in that way, except a "royal pleasure," to which she cannot of right lay claim. As to her, the King's first-cousin is a dead letter; he having no more control over her conscience, than he

has over the conscience of an apple-woman. In short, her Majesty is quite as much the mistress of her own convictions and conscience, as it probably ever falls to the lot of women in such high stations to be the mistress of interests that are of so much importance to those around them. Noah, innocently enough, I do firmly believe, had seriously wounded all those nice sensibilities which are naturally dependent on such an improved condition of society. Forbearance could go no farther, and I saw, by the dark looks around me, that the Captain had committed a serious crime. He was immediately arrested and conducted from the presence to an adjoining room, into which I obtained admission, after a good deal of solicitation and some very strong appeals to the sacred character of the rites of hospitality.

It now appeared that in Leaphigh the merits of a law are decided on a principle very similar to the one we employ in England in judging of the quality of our wines; viz. its age. The

older a law, the more it is to be respected; no doubt because, having proved its fitness by outlasting all the changes of society, it has become more mellow, if not more palatable. Now, by a law of Leaphigh that is coeval with the monarchy, he who offends the Queen's Majesty at a levee is to lose his head; and he who, under the same circumstances, offends the King's Majesty—necessarily the more heinous offence—is to lose his tail. In consequence of the former punishment, the criminal is invariably buried, and he is consigned to the usual course of monikin regeneration and resuscitation; but in consequence of the latter, it is thought that he is completely thrown without the pale of reason, and is thereby consigned to the class of the retrogressive animals. His mind diminishes and his body increases; the brain, for want of the means of developement, takes the ascending movement of sap again; his forehead dilates; bumps reappear; and, finally, after passing gradually downward in the scale of intellect, he

becomes a mass of insensible matter. Such, at least, is the theory of his punishment.

By another law, that is even older than the monarchy, any one who offends in the King's palace may be tried by a very summary process, the King's pages acting as his judges; in which case, the sentence is to be executed without delay.

Such was the dilemma to which Noah, by an indiscretion at court, was suddenly reduced; and, but for my prompt interference, he would probably have been simultaneously decapitated at both extremities, in obedience to an etiquette which prescribes that, under the circumstances of a court trial, neither the King's nor the Queen's rights shall be entitled to precedence. In defence of my client, I urged his ignorance of the usages of the country, and, indeed, of all other civilized countries, Stunnin'tun alone excepted. I stated that the criminal was an object altogether unworthy of their notice; that he was not a Lord High Admiral at all, but a

mere pitiful sealer; I laid some stress on the importance of maintaining friendly relations with the sealers, who cruise so near the monikin region; I tried to convince the judges that Noah meant no harm in imputing moral properties to the King; and that so long as he did not impute immoral properties to his royal consort, she might very well afford to pardon him. I then quoted Shakspeare's celebrated lines on mercy, which seemed to be well enough received, and committed the whole affair to their better judgment.

I should have got along very creditably, and most probably have obtained the immediate discharge of my friend, had not the Attorney-general of Leaphigh been drawn by curiosity into the room. Although he had nothing to say to the merits of my arguments, he objected to every one of them, on the ground of formality. This was too long, and that was too short; one was too high, and another too low; a fifth was too broad, and a sixth too narrow: in short,

there was no figure of speech of this nature to which he did not resort in order to prove their worthlessness, with the exception that I do not remember he charged any of my reasons with being too deep.

Matters were now beginning to look serious for poor Noah, when a page came skipping in, to say that the wedding was about to take place, and that if his comrades wished to witness it, they must sentence the prisoner without delay. Many a man, it is said, has been hanged in order that the judge might dine; but, in the present instance, I do believe Captain Poke was spared in order that his judges might not miss a fine spectacle. I entered into recognizance, in fifty thousand promises, for the due appearance of the criminal on the following morning; and we all returned, in a body, to the presence-chamber, treading on each other's tails in the eagerness to be foremost.

Any one who has ever been at a human court must very well know that, while it is the

easiest thing in the world to throw it into commotion by a violation of etiquette, matters of mere life and death are not at all of a nature to disturb its tranquillity. There, everything is a matter of routine and propriety; and, to judge from experience, nothing is so unseemly as to appear to possess human sympathies. The fact is not very different at Leaphigh, for the monikin sympathies, apparently, are quite as obtuse as those of men; although justice compels me to allow, that in the case of Captain Poke the appeal was made in behalf of a creature of a different species. It is also a settled principle of Leaphigh jurisprudence, that it would be monstrous for the King to interfere in behalf of justice, — justice, however, being always administered in his name; although it certainly is not held to be quite so improper for him to interfere in behalf of those who have offended justice.

As a consequence of these nice distinctions, which it requires a very advanced stage of civi-

lization fully to comprehend, both the King and Queen received our whole party, when we came back into the presence, exactly as if nothing particular had occurred. Noah wore both head and tail erect, like another; and the Lord High Admiral of Leaphigh dropped into a familiar conversation with him, on the subject of ballasting ships, in just as friendly a manner as if he were on the best possible terms with the whole royal family. This moral *sang-froid* is not to be ascribed to phlegm, but is, in fact, the result of high mental discipline, which causes the courtier to be utterly destitute of all feeling except in cases that affect himself.

It was high time now that I should be presented. Judge People's Friend, who had witnessed the dilemma of Noah with diplomatic unconcern, very politely renewed the offer of his services in my favour, and I went forward and stood before the throne.

"Sire, allow me to present a very eminent literary character among men, a cunning clerk,

by name Goldencalf," said the Envoy, bowing to his Majesty.

"He is welcome to my court," returned the King by proxy. "Pray, Mr. People's Friend, is not this one of the human beings who have lately arrived in my dominions, and who have shown so much cleverness in getting Chatterino and his governor through the ice?"

"The very same, please your Majesty; and a very arduous service it was, and right cleverly performed."

"This reminds me of a duty.—Let my cousin be summoned."

I now began to see a ray of hope, and to feel the truth of the saying which teaches us that justice, though sometimes slow, never fails to arrive at last. I had also now, and for the first time, a good view of the King's eldest first-cousin of the masculine gender, who drew near at the summons; and, while he had the appearance of listening with the most profound attention to the instructions of the King of

Leaphigh, was very evidently telling that potentate what he ought to do. The conference ended, his Majesty's proxy spoke in a way to be heard by all who had the good fortune to be near the royal person.

"Reasono did a good thing," he said,—"really, a very good thing, in bringing us these specimens of the human family. But for his cleverness, I might have died without ever dreaming that men were gifted with tails." (Kings never get hold of the truth at the right end.) "I wonder if the Queen knew it. Pray, did you know, my Augusta, that men had tails?"

"Our exemption from state affairs gives us females better opportunities than your Majesty enjoys to study these matters," returned his royal consort, by the mouth of her Lady of the Bedchamber.

"I dare say I'm very silly,—but our cousin, here, thinks it might be well to do something for these good people, for it may

encourage their King himself to visit us some day."

An exclamation of pleasure escaped the ladies; who declared, one and all, it would be delightful to see a real human king,—it would be so funny!"

"Well, well," added the good-natured monarch, "Heaven knows what may happen, for I have seen stranger things. Really, we ought to do something for these good people; for, although we owe the pleasure of their visit, in a great degree, to the cleverness of Reasono,—who, by the way, I 'm glad to hear is declared a H. O. A. X.,—yet he very handsomely admits, that but for their exertions—none of our seamikins being within reach—it would have been quite impossible to get through the ice. I wish I knew, now, which was the cleverest and the most useful of their party."

Here the Queen, always thinking and speaking by proxy, suggested the propriety of leaving the point to Prince Bob.

"It would be no more than is due to his rank; for though they are men, I dare say they have feelings like ourselves."

The question was now submitted to Bob, who sat in judgment on us all with as much gravity as if accustomed to such duties from infancy. It is said that men soon get to be familiar with elevation, and that, while he who has fallen never fails to look backward, he who has risen invariably limits his vision to the present horizon. Such proved to be the case with the princely Bob.

"This person," observed the jackanapes, pointing to me, "is a very good sort of a person, it is true; but he is hardly the sort of person your Majesty wants just now. There is the Lord High Admiral, too,—but—" (Bob's *but* was envenomed by a thousand kicks!)—"but—you wish, sire, to know which of my father's subjects was the most useful in getting the ship to Leaphigh?"

"That is precisely the fact I desire to know."

Bob hereupon pointed to the cook, who, it will be remembered, was present as one of his train-bearers.

"I believe I must say, sire, that this is the man. He fed us all; and without food, and that in considerable quantities too, nothing could have been done."

The little blackguard was rewarded for his impudence by exclamations of pleasure from all around him.—"It was so clever a distinction,"—"it showed so much reflection,"—"it was so very profound,"—"it proved how much he regarded the base of society;"—in short, "it was evident England would be a happy country when he should be called to the throne!" In the mean time, the cook was required to come forth and kneel before his Majesty.

"What is your name?" whispered the Lord of the Bedchamber, who now spoke for himself.

"Jack Coppers, your honour."

The Lord of the Bedchamber made a communication to his Majesty, when the sovereign turned round by proxy, with his back towards Jack, and, giving him the *accolade* with his tail, he bade him rise, as "Sir Jack Coppers."

I was a silent, an admiring, an astounded witness of this act of gross and flagrant injustice. Some one pulled me aside, and then I recognised the voice of Brigadier Downright.

"You think that honours have alighted where they are least due. You think that the saying of your Crown Prince has more smartness than truth, more malice than honesty. You think that the court has judged on false principles, and acted on an impulse rather than on reason; that the King has consulted his own ease in affecting to do justice; that the courtiers have paid a homage to their master, in affecting to pay a homage to merit; and that nothing in this life is pure or free

from the taint of falsehood, selfishness, or vanity. Alas! this is too much the case with us monikins, I must allow; though, doubtless, among men you manage a vast deal more cleverly."

CHAPTER VIII.

ABOUT THE HUMILITY OF PROFESSIONAL SAINTS, A SUCCESSION OF TAILS, A BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM, AND OTHER HEAVENLY MATTERS,—DIPLOMACY INCLUDED.

Perceiving that Brigadier Downright had an observant mind, and that he was altogether superior to the clannish feeling which is so apt to render a particular species inimical to all others, I asked permission to cultivate his acquaintance; begging, at the same time, that he would kindly favour me with such remarks as might be suggested by his superior wisdom and extensive travels, on any of those customs or opinions that would naturally present themselves in our actual situation. The Brigadier took the request in good part, and we began

to promenade the rooms in company. As the Archbishop of Aggregation, who was to perform the marriage ceremony, was shortly expected, the conversation very naturally turned on the general state of religion in the monikin region.

I was delighted to find that the clerical dogmas of this insulated portion of the world were based on principles absolutely identical with those of all Christendom. The monikins believe that they are a miserable lost set of wretches, who are so debased by nature, so eaten up by envy, uncharitableness, and all other evil passions, that it is quite impossible they can do anything that is good of themselves; that their sole dependence is on the moral interference of the great superior power of creation; and that the very first, and the one needful step of their own, is to cast themselves entirely on this power for support, in a proper spirit of dependence and humility. As collateral to and consequent on this condition of

the mind, they lay the utmost stress on a disregard of all the vanities of life, a proper subjection of the lusts of the flesh, and an abstaining from the pomp and vain-glory of ambition, riches, power and the faculties. In short, the one thing needful was humility—humility—humility. Once thoroughly humbled to a degree that put them above the danger of backsliding, they obtained glimpses of security, and were gradually elevated to the hopes and the condition of the just.

The Brigadier was still eloquently discoursing on this interesting topic, when a distant door opened, and a gold stick, or some other sort of stick, announced the Right Reverend Father in God, his Grace the most eminent and most serene Prelate, the very puissant and thrice gracious and glorified saint, the Primate of all Leaphigh!

The reader will anticipate the eager curiosity with which I advanced to get a glimpse of a saint under a system as sublimated as

that of the great monikin family. Civilization having made such progress as to strip all the people, even to the King and Queen, entirely of everything in the shape of clothes, I did not well see under what new mantle of simplicity the heads of the church could take refuge! Perhaps they shaved off all the hair from their bodies in sign of supereminent self-abasement, leaving themselves naked to the cuticle, that they might prove, by ocular evidence, what a poor ungainly set of wretches they really were, carnally considered; or perhaps they went on all-fours to heaven, in sign of their unfitness to enter into the presence of the pure of mind in an attitude more erect and confident. Well, these fancies of mine only went to prove how erroneous and false are the conclusions of one whose capacity has not been amplified and concatenated by the ingenuities of a very refined civilization! His Grace, the most gracious Father in God, wore a mantle of extraordinary fineness and beauty,

the material of which was composed of every tenth hair taken from all the citizens of Leaphigh, who most cheerfully submitted to be shaved, in order that the wants of his most eminent humility might be decently supplied. The mantle, wove from such a warp and such a woof, was necessarily very large; and it really appeared to me that the prelate did not very well know what to do with so much of it, more especially as the contributions include a new robe annually. I was now desirous of getting a sight of his tail; for, knowing that the Leaphighers take great pride in the length and beauty of that appurtenance, I very naturally supposed that a saint who wore so fine and glorious a robe by way of humility, must have recourse to some novel expedient to mortify himself on this sensitive subject, at least. I found that the ample proportions of the mantle concealed, not only the person, but most of the movements of the Archbishop; and it was with many doubts of my success, that I

led the Brigadier behind the episcopal train to reconnoitre. The result disappointed expectation again. Instead of being destitute of a tail, or of concealing that with which Nature had supplied him beneath his mantle, the most gracious dignitary wore no less than six *caudæ*, viz. his own, and five others added to it, by some subtle process of clerical ingenuity that I shall not attempt to explain; one "bent on to the other," as the Captain described them, in a subsequent conversation. This extraordinary train was allowed to sweep the floor; the only sign of humility, according to my uninstructed faculties, I could discern about the person and appearance of this illustrious model of clerical self-mortification and humility.

The Brigadier, however, was not tardy in setting me right. In the first place, he gave me to understand that the hierarchy of Leaphigh was illustrated by the order of their tails. Thus, a deacon wore one and a half; a curate, if a minister, one and three quarters, and a

rector, two; a dean, two and a half; an archdeacon, three; a bishop, four; the Primate of Leaphigh, five, and the Primate of *all* Leaphigh, six. The origin of the custom, which was very ancient, and of course very much respected, was imputed to the doctrine of a saint of great celebrity, who had satisfactorily proved that as the tail was the intellectual, or the spiritual part of a monikin, the farther it was removed from the mass of matter, or the body, the more likely it was to be independent, consecutive, logical, and spiritualized. The idea had succeeded astonishingly at first; but time, which will wear out even a *cauda*, had given birth to schisms in the church on this interesting subject; one party contending that two more joints ought to be added to the archbishop's embellishment, by way of sustaining the church, and the other that two joints ought to be incontinently abstracted in the way of reform.

These explanations were interrupted by the appearance of the bride and bridegroom, at

different doors. The charming Chatterissa advanced with a most prepossessing modesty, followed by a glorious train of noble maidens, all keeping their eyes, by a rigid ordinance of hymeneal etiquette, dropped to the level of the Queen's feet. On the other hand, my Lord Chatterino, attended by that coxcomb High-tail, and others of his kidney, stepped towards the altar with a lofty confidence, which the same etiquette exacted of the bridegroom. The parties were no sooner in their places, than the prelate commenced.

The marriage ceremony, according to the formula of the established church of Leaphigh, is a very solemn and imposing ceremony. The bridegroom is required to swear that he loves the bride and none but the bride; that he has made his choice solely on account of her merits, uninfluenced even by her beauty; and that he will so far command his inclinations, as, on no account, ever to love another a jot. The bride, on her part, calls heaven and earth to witness,

that she will do just what the bridegroom shall ask of her; that she will be his bondwoman, his slave, his solace, and his delight; that she is quite certain no other monikin could make her happy, but, on the other hand, she is absolutely sure that any other monikin would be certain to make her miserable. When these pledges, oaths, and asseverations were duly made and recorded, the Archbishop caused the happy pair to be wreathed together, by encircling them with his episcopal tail, and they were then pronounced monikin and monikina. I pass over the congratulations, which were quite in rule, to relate a short conversation I held with the Brigadier.

"Sir," said I, addressing that person, as soon as the prelate said 'amen,' "how is this? I have seen a certificate myself, which showed that there was a just admeasurement of the fitness of this union, on the score of other considerations than those mentioned in the ceremony!"

" That certificate has no connexion with this ceremony."

" And yet this ceremony repudiates all the considerations enumerated in the certificate!"

" This ceremony has no connexion with that certificate."

" So it would seem; and yet both refer to the same solemn engagement!"

" Why, to tell you the truth, Sir John Goldencalf, we monikins (for in these particulars Leaphigh is Leaplow) have two distinct governing principles in all that we say or do, which may be divided into the theoretical and the practical — moral and immoral would not be inapposite — but, by the first we control all our interests, down as far as facts, when we immediately submit to the latter. There may possibly be something inconsistent in appearance in such an arrangement; but then our most knowing ones say that it works well. No doubt, among men, you get along without the embarrassment of so much contradiction."

I now advanced to pay my respects to the Countess of Chatterino, who stood supported by the Countess-dowager, a lady of great dignity and elegance of demeanour. The moment I appeared, the elaborate air of modesty vanished from the charming countenance of the bride in a look of natural pleasure; and, turning to her new mother, she pointed me out as a man! The courteous old dowager gave me a very kind reception, inquiring if I had enough good things to eat, whether I was not much astonished at the multitude of strange sights I beheld in Leaphigh, said I ought to be much obliged to her son for consenting to bring me over, and invited me to come and see her some fine morning.

I bowed my thanks, and then returned to join the Brigadier, with a view to seek an introduction to the Archbishop. Before I relate the particulars of my interview with that pious prelate, however, it may be well to say that this was the last I ever saw of any of the Chat-

terino set, as they retired from the presence immediately after the congratulations were ended. I heard, however, previously to leaving the region, which was within a month of the marriage, that the noble pair kept separate establishments, on account of some disagreement about an incompatibility of temper—or a young officer of the guards—I never knew exactly which; but as the estates suited each other so well, there is little doubt that, on the whole, the match was as happy as could be expected.

The Archbishop received me with a great deal of professional benevolence, the conversation dropping very naturally into a comparison of the respective religious systems of Great Britain and Leaphigh. He was delighted when he found we had an establishment; and I believe I was indebted to his knowledge of this fact for his treating me more as an equal than he might otherwise have done, considering the difference in species. I was much relieved by

this; for, at the commencement of the conversation, he had sounded me a little on doctrine, at which I am far from being expert, never having taken an interest in the church, and I thought he looked frowning at some of my answers; but, when he heard that we really had a national religion, he seemed to think all safe, nor did he once, after that, inquire whether we were pagans or presbyterians. But when I told him we had actually a hierarchy, I thought the good old prelate would have shaken my hand off, and beatified me on the spot!

"We shall meet in heaven some day!" he exclaimed, with holy delight; "men or monikins, it can make no great difference, after all. We shall meet in heaven; and that, too, in the upper mansions!"

The reader will suppose that, an alien, and otherwise unknown, I was much elated by this distinction. To go to heaven in company with the Archbishop of Leaphigh was in itself no small favour; but to be thus noticed by him

at court was really enough to upset the philosophy of a stranger. I was sorely afraid, all the while, he would descend to particulars, and that he might have found some essential points of difference to nip his new-born admiration. Had he asked me, for instance, how many *caudæ* our bishops wear, I should have been badgered; for, as near as I could recollect, their personal illustration was of another character. The venerable prelate, however, soon gave me his blessing, pressed me warmly to come to his palace before I sailed, promised to send some tracts by me to England, and then hurried away, as he said, to sign a sentence of excommunication against an unruly presbyter, who had much disturbed the harmony of the church, of late, by an attempt to introduce a schism that he called "piety."

The Brigadier and myself discussed the subject of religion at some length, when the illustrious prelate had taken his leave. I was told that the monikin world was pretty nearly

equally divided into two parts—the old and the new. The latter had remained uninhabited, until within a few generations, when certain monikins, who were too good to live in the old world, emigrated in a body, and set up for themselves in the new. This, the Brigadier admitted, was the Leaplow account of the matter; the inhabitants of the old countries, on the other hand, invariably maintaining that they had peopled the new countries, by sending all those of their own communities there who were not fit to stay at home. This little obscurity in the history of the new world, he considers of no great moment, as such trifling discrepancies must always depend on the character of the historian. Leaphigh was by no means the only country in the elder monikin region. There were among others, for instance, Leapup and Leapdown; Leapover and Leapthrough; Leaplong and Leapshort; Leapround and Leapunder. Each of these countries had a religious establishment, though Leaplow,

being founded on a new social principle, had none. The Brigadier thought, himself, on the whole, that the chief consequences of the two systems were, that the countries which had establishments had a great reputation for possessing religion, and those that had no establishments were well enough off in the article itself, though but indifferently supplied on the score of reputation.

I inquired of the Brigadier if he did not think an establishment had the beneficial effect of sustaining truth, by suppressing heresies, limiting and curtailing prurient theological fancies, and otherwise setting limits to innovations. My friend did not absolutely agree with me in all these particulars; though he very frankly allowed that it had the effect of keeping *two* truths from falling out, by separating them. Thus, Leapup maintained one set of religious dogmas under its establishment, and Leapdown maintained their converse. By keeping these truths apart, no doubt, religious

harmony was promoted, and the several ministers of the gospel were enabled to turn all their attention to the sins of the community, instead of allowing it to be diverted to the sins of each other, as was very apt to be the case when there was an antagonist interest to oppose.

Shortly after, the King and Queen gave us all our congés. Noah and myself got through the crowd without injury to our trains, and we separated in the court of the palace; he to go to his bed and dream of his trial on the morrow, and I to go home with Judge People's Friend and the Brigadier, who had invited me to finish the evening with a supper. I was left chatting with the last, while the first went into his closet to indite a despatch to his government, relating to the events of the evening.

The Brigadier was rather caustic in his comments on the incidents of the drawing-room. A republican himself, he certainly did love to give royalty and nobility some occasional rubs; though I must do this worthy, upright moni-

kin the justice to say, he was quite superior to that vulgar hostility which is apt to distinguish many of his caste, and which is founded on a principle as simple as the fact that they cannot be kings and nobles themselves.

While we were chatting very pleasantly, quite at our ease, and in undress, as it were, the Brigadier in his bob, and I with my tail laid aside, Judge People's Friend rejoined us, with his despatch open in his hand. He read aloud what he had written, to my great astonishment; for I had been accustomed to think diplomatic communications sacred. But the Judge observed, that in this case it was useless to affect secrecy, for two very good reasons: firstly, because he had been obliged to employ a common Leaphigh scrivener to copy what he had written,—his government depending on a noble republican economy, which taught it that, if it did get into difficulties by the betrayal of its correspondence, it would still have the money that a clerk would cost to help it out

of the embarrassment; and, secondly, because he knew the government itself would print it as soon as it arrived. For his part, he liked to have the publishing of his own works. Under these circumstances, I was even allowed to take a copy of the letter, of which I now furnish a fac-simile.

"SIR,

"The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the North-Western Leaplow Confederate Union, has the honour to inform the Secretary of State, that our interests in this portion of the earth are, in general, on the best possible footing: our national character is getting every day to be more and more elevated; our rights are more and more respected, and our flag is more and more whitening every sea. After this flattering and honourable account of the state of our general concerns, I hasten to communicate the following interesting particulars.

"The treaty between our beloved North-

Western Confederate Union and Leaphigh has been dishonoured in every one of its articles: nineteen Leaplow seamen have been forcibly impressed into a Leapthrough vessel of war; the King of Leapup has made an unequivocal demonstration, with a very improper part of his person, at us; and the King of Leapover has caused seven of our ships to be seized and sold, and the money to be given to his mistress.

"Sir, I congratulate you on this very flattering condition of our foreign relations; which can only be imputed to the glorious constitution of which we are the common servants, and to the just dread which the Leaplow name has so universally inspired in other nations.

"The King has just had a drawing-room, in which I took great care to see that the honour of our beloved country should be faithfully attended to. My *cauda* was at least three inches longer than that of the representative of Leapup, the minister most favoured by nature in

this important particular; and I have the pleasure of adding, that her Majesty the Queen deigned to give me a very gracious smile. Of the sincerity of that smile there can be no earthly doubt, sir; for, though there is abundant evidence that she did apply certain unseemly words to our beloved country lately, it would quite exceed the rules of diplomatic courtesy, and be unsustained by proof, were we to call in question her royal sincerity on this public occasion. Indeed, sir, at all the recent drawing-rooms I have received smiles of the most sincere and encouraging character, not only from the King, but from all his ministers, his first-cousin in particular; and I trust they will have the most beneficial effects on the questions at issue between the kingdom of Leaphigh and our beloved country. If they would now only do us justice in the very important affair of the long-standing and long-neglected redress which we have been seeking in vain at their hands for the last seventy-two

years, I should say that our relations were on the best possible footing.

"Sir, I congratulate you on the profound respect with which the Leaplow name is treated in the most distant quarters of the earth, and on the benign influence this fortunate circumstance is likely to exercise on all our important interests.

"I see but little probability of effecting the object of my special mission; but the utmost credit is to be attached to the sincerity of the smiles of the King and Queen, and of all the royal family.

"In a late conversation with his Majesty, he inquired in the kindest manner after the health of the Great Sachem, [this is the title of the head of the Leaplow government,] and observed that our growth and prosperity put all other nations to shame; and that we might, on all occasions, depend on his most profound respect and perpetual friendship. In short, sir, all nations, far and near, desire our alliance, are anxious to

open new sources of commerce, and entertain for us the profoundest respect, and the most inviolable esteem. — You can tell the Great Sachem that this feeling is surprisingly augmented under his administration, and that it has at least quadrupled during my mission. If Leaphigh would only respect its treaties, Leapthrough would cease taking our seamen, Leapup have greater deference for the usages of good society, and the King of Leapover would seize no more of our ships to supply his mistress with pocket-money, our foreign relations might be considered to be without spot. As it is, sir, they are far better off than I could have expected, or, indeed, had ever hoped to see them; and of one thing you may be diplomatically certain, that we are universally respected, and that the Leaplow name is never mentioned without all in company rising and waving their *caudæ*.

"(Signed) JUDAS PEOPLE'S FRIEND.

"Hon. ——— ———, &c.

"P. S. [Private.]

"Dear Sir,—If you publish this despatch, omit the part where the difficulties are *repeated*. I beg you will see that my name is put in with those of the other patriots, against the periodical rotation of the little wheel; as I shall certainly be obliged to return home soon, having consumed all my means. Indeed, the expense of maintaining a tail, of which our people have no notion, is so very great, that I think none of our missions should exceed a week in duration.

"I would especially advise that the message should dilate on the subject of the high standing of the Leaplow character, in foreign nations; for, to be frank with you, facts require that this statement should be made as often as possible."

When this letter was read, the conversation reverted to religion. The Brigadier explained that the law of Leaphigh had various peculi-

arities on this subject, that I do not remember to have heard of before. Thus, a monikin could not be born, without paying something to the church—a practice which early initiated him into his duties towards that important branch of the public welfare; and, even when he died, he left a fee behind him, for the parson, as an admonition to those who still existed in the flesh, not to forget their obligations. He added, that this sacred interest was, in short, so rigidly protected, that, whenever a monikin refused to be plucked for a new clerical or episcopal mantle, there was a method of fleecing him, by the application of red-hot iron rods, which generally singed so much of his skin, that he was commonly willing, in the end, to let the hair-proctors pick and choose, at pleasure.

I confess I was indignant at this picture, and did not hesitate to stigmatise the practice as barbarous.

"Your indignation is very natural, Sir John,

and is just what a stranger would be likely to feel, when he found mercy, and charity, and brotherly love, and virtue,—and, above all, humility,—made the stalking-horses of pride, selfishness, and avarice. But this is the way with us monikins: no doubt, men manage better."

CHAPTER IX.

A VERY COMMON CASE — OR A GREAT DEAL OF LAW, AND VERY LITTLE JUSTICE. HEADS AND TAILS — WITH THE DANGERS OF EACH.

I was early with Noah on the following morning. The poor fellow, when it is remembered that he was about to be tried for a capital offence, in a foreign country, under novel institutions, and before a jury of a different species, manifested a surprising degree of fortitude. Still, the love of life was strong within him, as was apparent by the way in which he opened the discourse.

"Did you observe how the wind was, this morning, Sir John, as you came in?" the straight-forward sealer inquired, with a peculiar interest.

"It is a pleasant gale from the southward."

"Right off shore! If one knew where all them blackguards of Rear Admirals and Post Captains were to be found — I don't think, Sir John, that you would care much about paying those fifty thousand promises?"

"My recognizes? — Not in the least, my dear friend, were it not for our honour. It would scarcely be creditable for the Walrus to sail, however, leaving an unsettled account of her captain's behind us. What would they say at Stunin'tun — what would your own consort think of an act so unmanly?"

"Why, at Stunin'tun, we think him the smartest who gets the easiest out of any difficulty; and I don't well see why Miss Poke should know it, — or, if she did, why she should think the worse of her husband for saving his life."

"Away with these unworthy thoughts, and brace yourself to meet the trial. We shall, at least, get some insight into the Leaphigh juris-

prudence.—Come, I see you are already dressed for the occasion; let us be as prompt as duellists."

Noah made up his mind to submit with dignity; although he lingered in the great square, in order to study the clouds, in a way to show he might have settled the whole affair with the fore-topsail, had he known where to find his crew. Fortunately for the reputations of all concerned, however, he did not; and, discarding everything like apprehension from his countenance, the sturdy mariner entered the Old Bailey with the tread of a man, and the firmness of innocence. I ought to have said sooner, that we had received notice early in the morning, that the proceedings had been taken from before the pages, on appeal, and that a new *venue* had been laid in the High Criminal Court of Leaphigh.

Brigadier Downright met us at the door; where also a dozen grave, greasy-looking counsellors gathered about us, in a way to show

that they were ready to volunteer in behalf of the stranger, on receiving no more than the customary fee. But I had determined to defend Noah myself, (the court consenting,) for I had forebodings that our safety would depend more on an appeal to the rites of hospitality, than on any legal defence it was in our power to offer. As the Brigadier kindly volunteered to aid me for nothing, I thought proper not to refuse his services, however.

I pass over the appearance of the court, the empanneling of the jury, and the arraignment; for in matters of mere legal *forms*, there is no great difference between civilised countries, all of them wearing the same semblance of justice. The first indictment—for unhappily there were two—charged Noah with having committed an assault, with malice prepense, on the King's dignity, with "sticks, daggers, muskets, blunderbusses, air-guns, and other unlawful weapons, *more especially with the tongue*, in that he had accused his Majesty, face to face,

with having a memory, &c. &c." The other indictment, repeating the formula of the first, charged the honest sealer with feloniously accusing her Majesty the Queen, " in defiance of the law, to the injury of good morals and the peace of society, with having no memory, &c. &c." To both these charges, the plea of " Not Guilty" was entered as fast as possible, in behalf of our client.

I ought to have said before, that both Brigadier Downright and myself had applied to be admitted of counsel for the accused, under an ancient law of Leaphigh, as next of kin; I as a fellow human being, and the Brigadier by adoption.

The preliminary forms observed, the Attorney-General was about to go into proof, in behalf of the crown, when my brother Downright arose and said that he intended to save the precious time of the court, by admitting the facts; and that it was intended to rest the defence altogether on the law of the case. He

presumed that the jury was the judge of the law as well as of the facts, according to the rule of Leaplow, and that "he and his brother Goldencalf were quite prepared to show that the law was altogether with us in this affair." The court received the admission, and the facts were submitted to the jury, by consent, as proven; although the Chief-Justice took occasion to remark, Longbeard dissenting, that, while the jury were certainly judges of the law, in one sense, yet there was another sense in which they were not judges of the law. The dissent of Baron Longbeard went to maintain that while the jury were the judges of the law in the "another sense" mentioned, they were not judges of the law in the "one sense" named. This difficulty disposed of, Mr. Attorney-General arose and opened for the crown.

I soon found that we had one of a very comprehensive and philosophical turn of mind against us, in the advocate of the other side. He commenced his argument by a vigorous and

lucid sketch of the condition of the world previously to the subdivisions of its different inhabitants into nations, and tribes, and clans, while in the human or chrysalis condition. From this statement, he deduced the regular gradations by which men became separated into communities, and subjected to the laws of civilization, or what is called society. Having proceeded thus far, he touched lightly on the different phases that the institutions of men had presented, and descended gradually and consecutively to the fundamental principles of the social compact, as they were known to exist among monikins. After a few general observations that properly belonged to the subject, he came to speak of those portions of the elementary principles of society that are connected with the rights of the sovereign. These he divided into the rights of the King's prerogative, the rights of the King's person, and the rights of the King's conscience. Here he again generalised a little, and in a very happy manner;

so well, indeed, as to leave all his hearers in doubt as to what he would next be at; when, by a fierce logical swoop, he descended suddenly on the latter of the King's rights, as the one that was most connected with the subject.

He triumphantly showed that the branch of the royal immunities that was chiefly affected by the offence of the prisoner at the bar, was very clearly connected with the rights of the King's conscience. "The attributes of royalty," observed the sagacious advocate, "are not to be estimated in the same manner as the attributes of the subject. In the sacred person of the King are centred many, if not most, of the interesting privileges of monikinism. That royal personage, in a political sense, can do no wrong; official infallibility is the consequence. Such a being has no occasion for the ordinary faculties of the monikin condition. Of what use, for instance, is a judgment, or a conscience, to a functionary who can do no wrong? The law, in order to relieve one on whose shoulders

was imposed the burthen of the state, had, consequently, placed the latter especially in the keeping of another. His Majesty's first-cousin is the keeper of his conscience, as is known throughout the realm of Leaphigh. A memory is the faculty of the least account to a personage who has no conscience; and, while it is not contended that the sovereign is relieved from the possession of his memory by any positive statute law, or direct constitutional provision, it follows, by unavoidable implication, and by all legitimate construction, that, having no occasion to possess such a faculty, it is the legal presumption he is altogether without it."

"That simplicity, lucidity, and distinctness, my Lords," continued Mr. Attorney-General, "which are necessary to every well-ordered mind, would be impaired in the case of his Majesty, were his intellectual faculties unnecessarily crowded in this useless manner, and the state would be the sufferer. My Lords, the King reigns, but he does not govern. This is

a fundamental principle of the constitution; nay, it is more—it is the palladium of our liberties! My Lords, it is an easy matter to reign in Leaphigh. It requires no more than the rights of primogeniture, sufficient discretion to understand the distinction between reigning and governing, and a political moderation that is unlikely to derange the balance of the state. But it is quite a different thing to govern. His Majesty is required to govern nothing, the slight interests just mentioned excepted; no, not even himself. The case is far otherwise with his first-cousin. This high functionary is charged with the important trust of governing. It had been found, in the early ages of the monarchy, that one conscience, or indeed one set of faculties generally, scarcely sufficed for him whose duty it was both to reign and to govern. We all know, my Lords, how insufficient for our personal objects are our own private faculties; how difficult we find it to restrain even ourselves, assisted merely by our own judg-

ments, consciences, and memories; and in this fact do we perceive the great importance of investing him who governs others, with an additional set of these grave faculties. Under a due impression of the exigency of such a state of things, the common law—not statute law, my Lords, which is apt to be tainted with the imperfections of monikin reason in its isolated or individual state, usually bearing the impress of the single *cauda* from which it emanated; but the common law, the known receptacle of all the common sense of the nation—in such a state of things, then, has the common law long since decreed that his Majesty's first-cousin should be the keeper of his Majesty's conscience; and, by necessary legal implication, endowed with his Majesty's judgment, his Majesty's reason, and, finally, his Majesty's *memory*.

"My Lords, this is the legal presumption. It would, in addition, be easy for me to show, in a thousand facts, that not only the sovereign of Leaphigh, but most other sovereigns, are

and ever have been destitute of the faculty of a memory. It might be said to be incompatible with the royal condition to be possessed of this obtrusive faculty. Were a prince endowed with a memory, he might lose sight of his high estate, in the recollection that he was born and that he is destined, like another, to die; he might be troubled with visions of the past; nay, the consciousness of his very dignity might be unsettled and weakened by a vivid view of the origin of his royal race. Promises, obligations, attachments, duties, principles, and even debts, might interfere with the due discharge of his sacred trusts, were the sovereign invested with a memory; and it has, therefore, been decided from time immemorial, that his Majesty is utterly without the properties of reason, judgment, and memory, as a legitimate inference from his being destitute of a conscience."

Mr. Attorney-General now directed the attention of the court and jury to a statute of the 3rd of Firstborn 6th, by which it was enacted

that any person attributing to his Majesty the possession of any faculty, with felonious intent, that might endanger the tranquillity of the state, should suffer decaudisation, without benefit of clergy. Here he rested the case on behalf of the crown.

There was a solemn pause after the speaker had resumed his seat. His argument, logic, and, above all, his good sense and undeniable law, made a very sensible impression; and I had occasion to observe that Noah began to chew tobacco ravenously. After a decent interval, however, Brigadier Downright, who, it would seem, in spite of his military appellation, was neither more nor less than a practising attorney and counsellor in the city of Bivouac, the commercial capital of the republic of Leaplow, arose and claimed a right to be heard in reply. The court now took it into its head to start the objection, for the first time, that the advocate had not been duly qualified to plead, or to argue at their bar. My brother Down-

right instantly referred their Lordships to the law of adoption, and to that provision of the criminal code which permitted the accused to be heard by his next of kin.

"Prisoner at the bar," said the Chief-Justice, "you hear the statement of counsel. Is it your desire to commit the management of your defence to your next of kin?"

"To anybody, your honours, if the court please," returned Noah, furiously masticating his beloved weed; "to anybody who will do it well, my honourables, and do it cheap."

"And do you adopt, under the provisions of the statute in such cases made and provided, Aaron Downright as one of your next of kin; and if so, in what capacity?"

"I do—I do—my Lords and your honours—I do, body and soul—if you please, I adopt the Brigadier as my father; and my fellow human being and tried friend, Sir John Goldencalf, here, I adopt him as my mother."

The court now formally assenting, the facts were entered of record, and my brother Downright was requested to proceed with the defence.

The counsel for the prisoner, like *Dandin*, in Racine's comedy of *Les Plaideurs*, was disposed to pass over the deluge, and to plunge instantly into the core of his subject. He commenced with a review of the royal prerogatives, and with a definition of the words "to reign." Referring to the dictionary of the academy, he showed triumphantly, that to reign, was no other than to "govern as a sovereign;" while to govern, in the familiar signification, was no more than to govern in the name of a prince, or as a deputy. Having successfully established this point, he laid down the position, that the greater might contain the less, but that the less could not possibly contain the greater: that the right to reign, or to govern, in the generic signification of the term, must include all the lawful attributes of him who only governed, in the

secondary signification; and that, consequently, the King not only reigned, but governed. He then proceeded to show that a memory was indispensable to him who governed, since, without one, he could neither recollect the laws, make a suitable disposition of rewards and punishments, nor, in fact, do any other intelligent or necessary act. Again, it was contended that by the law of the land the King's conscience was in the keeping of his first-cousin: now, in order that the King's conscience should be in such keeping, it was clear that he must *have* a conscience, since a nonentity could not be in keeping, or even put in commission; and, having a conscience, it followed, *ex necessitate rei*, that he must have the attributes of a conscience, of which memory formed one of the most essential features. Conscience was defined to be "the faculty by which we judge of the goodness or wickedness of our own actions." [See Johnson's Dictionary, page 163, letter C. London edition. Rivington, publisher.] Now, in what manner

can one judge of the goodness or wickedness of his acts, or of those of any other person, if he knows nothing about them? — and how can he know anything of the past, unless endowed with the faculty of a memory?

Again; it was a political corollary from the institutions of Leaphigh, that the King could do no wrong——

"I beg your pardon, my brother Downright," interrupted the Chief-Justice; "it is not a corollary, but a proposition—and one, too, that is held to be demonstrated. It is the paramount law of the land."

"I thank you, my Lord," continued the Brigadier, "as your Lordship's high authority makes my case so much the stronger. It is, then, settled law, gentlemonikins of the jury, that the Sovereign of this realm can do no wrong. It is also settled law,—their Lordships will correct me, if I misstate,—it is also settled law, that the Sovereign is the fountain of honour, that he can make war and peace,

that he administers justice, sees the laws executed——"

"I beg your pardon, again, brother Downright," interrupted the Chief-Justice. "This is not the law, but the prerogative. It is the King's prerogative to be and do all this, but it is very far from being law."

"Am I to understand, my Lord, that the court makes a distinction between that which is prerogative, and that which is law?"

"Beyond a doubt, brother Downright! If all that is prerogative was also law, we could not get on an hour."

"Prerogative, if your Lordship pleases, or *prerogativa*, is defined to be 'an exclusive or peculiar privilege.' [Johnson, Letter P. page 139, fifth clause from bottom. Edition as aforesaid.—Speaking slow, in order to enable Baron Longbeard to make his notes.] Now, an *exclusive privilege*, I humbly urge, must supersede all enactments, and——"

"Not at all, sir—not at all, sir," put in my

Lord Chief-Justice, dogmatically, — looking out of the window at the clouds, in a way to show that his mind was quite made up. "Not at all, good sir. The King has his prerogatives, beyond a question; and they are sacred — a part of the constitution. They are, moreover, exclusive and peculiar, as stated by Johnson; but their exclusion and peculiarity are not to be construed in the vulgar acceptations. In treating of the vast interests of a state, the mind must take a wide range; and I hold, brother Longbeard, there is no principle more settled than the fact, that *prerogativa* is one thing, and *lex*, or the law, another." The Baron bowed assent. "By exclusion, in this case, is meant that the prerogative touches only his Majesty. The prerogative is exclusively his property, and he may do what he pleases with it; but the law is made for the nation, and is altogether a different matter. Again: by peculiar, is clearly meant peculiarity,—or that this case is analogous to no

other, and must be reasoned on by the aid of a peculiar logic. No, sir,—the King can make peace and war, it is true, under his prerogative; but then his conscience is hard and fast in the keeping of another, who alone can perform all legal acts."

"But, my Lord, justice, though administered by others, is still administered in the King's name."

"No doubt, in his name:—this is a part of the *peculiar* privilege. War is made in his Majesty's name, too,—so is peace. What is war? It is the personal conflicts between bodies of men of different nations. Does his Majesty engage in these conflicts? Certainly not. The war is maintained by taxes:—does his Majesty pay them?—No. Thus we see that while the war is constitutionally the King's, it is practically the people's. It follows, as a corollary,—since you quote corollaries, brother Downright,—that there are *two* wars—or the war of the prerogative, and the

war of the fact. Now, the prerogative is a constitutional principle — a very sacred one, certainly;—but a fact is a thing that comes home to every monikin's fire-side; and, therefore, the courts have decided, ever since the reign of Timid II., or ever since they dared, that the prerogative was one thing, and the law another."

My brother Downright seemed a good deal perplexed by the distinctions of the court, and he concluded much sooner than he otherwise would have done; summing up the whole of his arguments by showing, or attempting to show, that if the King had even these *peculiar* privileges, and nothing else, he must be supposed to have a memory.

The court now called upon the Attorney-General to reply: but that person appeared to think his case strong enough as it was; and the matter, by agreement, was submitted to the jury, after a short charge from the bench.

"You are not to suffer your intellects to

be confused, gentlemonikins, by the argument of the prisoner's counsel," concluded the Chief-Justice. "He has done his duty, and it remains for you to be equally conscientious. You are, in this case, the judges of the law and the fact; but it is a part of my functions to inform you what they both are. By the law, the King is supposed to have no faculties. The inference drawn by counsel, that not being capable of erring, the King must have the highest possible moral attributes, and consequently a memory, is unsound. The constitution says his Majesty *can* do no wrong. This inability may proceed from a variety of causes. If he can do *nothing*, for instance, he can do no wrong. The constitution does not say that the Sovereign *will* do no wrong—but, that he *can* do no wrong. Now, gentlemonikins, when a thing *cannot* be done, it becomes impossible; and it is, of course, beyond the reach of argument. It is of no moment whether a person has a memory, if he cannot use it; and, in such

a case, the legal presumption is, that he is without a memory,—for, otherwise, Nature, who is ever wise and beneficent, would be throwing away her gifts.

"Gentlemonikins, I have already said you are the judges, in this case, of both the law and the fact. The fate of the prisoner is in your hands. God forbid that it should be, in any manner, influenced by me; but this is an offence against the King's dignity, and the security of the realm; the law is against the prisoner, the facts are all against the prisoner, and I do not doubt that your verdict will be the spontaneous decision of your own excellent judgments, and of such a nature as will prevent the necessity of our ordering a new trial."

The jurors put their tails together, and in less than a minute their foremonikin rendered a verdict of "Guilty." Noah sighed, and took a fresh supply of tobacco.

The case of the Queen was immediately opened by her Majesty's Attorney-General;

the prisoner having been previously arraigned, and a plea entered of " Not guilty."

The Queen's advocate made a bitter attack on the *animus* of the unfortunate prisoner. He described her Majesty as a paragon of excellences; as the depositary of all the monikina virtues, and the model of her sex. " If she, who was so justly celebrated for the gifts of charity, meekness, religion, justice, and submission to feminine duties, had no memory, he asked leave to demand, in the name of God, who had? Without a memory, in what manner was this illustrious personage to recall her duties to her royal consort, her duties to her royal offspring, her duties to her royal self? Memory was peculiarly a royal attribute; and without its possession no one could properly be deemed of high and ancient lineage. Memory referred to the past; and the consideration due to royalty was scarcely ever a present consideration, but a consideration connected with the past. We venerated the past. Time was

divided into the past, present, and future. The past was invariably a monarchical interest —the present was claimed by republicans— the future belonged to fate. If it were decided that the Queen had no memory, we should strike a blow at royalty. It was by memory, as connected with the public archives, that the King derived his title to his throne ; it was to memory, which recalled the deeds of his ancestors, that he became entitled to our most profound respect."

In this manner did the Queen's Attorney-General speak for about an hour, when he gave way to the counsel for the prisoner. But, to my great surprise, —for I knew that this accusation was much the graver of the two, since the head of Noah would be the price of conviction,—my brother Downright, instead of making a very ingenious reply, as I had fully anticipated, merely said a few words, in which he expressed so firm a confidence in the acquittal of his client, as to appear to think

a further defence altogether unnecessary. He had no sooner seated himself, than I expressed a strong dissatisfaction with this course, and avowed an intention to make an effort in behalf of my poor friend, myself.

"Keep silence, Sir John," whispered my brother Downright; "the advocate who makes many unsuccessful applications gets to be disrespected. I charge myself with the care of the Lord High Admiral's interests: at the proper time, they shall be duly attended to."

Having the profoundest respect for the Brigadier's legal attainments, and no great confidence in my own, I was fain to submit. In the mean time, the business of the court proceeded; and the jury, having received a short charge from the bench, which was quite as impartial as a positive injunction to convict could very well be, again rendered the verdict of "Guilty."

In Leaphigh, although it is deemed indecent to wear clothes, it is also esteemed exceedingly

decorous for certain high functionaries to adorn their persons with suitable badges of their official rank. We have already had an account of the hierarchy of tails, and a general description of the mantle composed of tenth-hairs; but I had forgotten to say that both my Lord Chief-Justice and Baron Longbeard had tail-cases made of the skins of deceased monikins, which gave the appearance of greater developement to their intellectual organs, and most probably had some influence in the way of coddling their brains, which required great care and attention on account of incessant use. They now drew over these tail-cases a sort of box-coat of a very bloodthirsty colour, which, we were given to understand, was a sign that they were in earnest, and about to pronounce sentence; justice in Leaphigh being of singularly bloodthirsty habits.

"Prisoner at the bar," the Chief-Justice began, in a voice of reproof, "you have heard the decision of your peers. You have been

arraigned and tried on the heinous charge of having accused the sovereign of this realm of being in possession of the faculty called "a memory," thereby endangering the peace of society, unsettling the social relations, and setting a dangerous example of insubordination and of contempt of the laws. Of this crime, after a singularly patient and impartial hearing, you have been found guilty. The law allows the court no discretion in the case. It is my duty to pass sentence forthwith; and I now solemnly ask you, if you have anything to say why sentence of decaudisation should not be pronounced against you."—Here the Chief-Justice took just time enough to gape, and then proceeded.—"You are right in throwing yourself altogether on the mercy of the court, which better knows what is fittest for you than you can possibly know for yourself. You will be taken, Noah Poke, or No. 1, sea-water-colour, forthwith, to the centre of the public square, between the hours of sunrise and sun-

set of this day, where your *cauda* will be cut off; and after it has been divided into four parts, a part will be exposed towards each of the cardinal points of the compass; and the brush thereof being consumed by fire, the ashes will be thrown into your face, and this without benefit of clergy. And may the Lord have mercy on your soul!"

"Noah Poke, or No. 1, sea-water-colour," put in Baron Longbeard, without giving the culprit breathing-time, "you have been indicted, tried, and found guilty of the enormous crime of charging the Queen-consort of this realm of being wanting in the ordinary, important, and every-day faculty of a memory. Have you anything to say why sentence should not be forthwith passed against you?—No—I am sure you are very right in throwing yourself altogether on the mercy of the court, which is quite disposed to show you all that is in its power—which happens, in this case, to be none at all. I need not dwell on the

gravity of your offence. If the law should allow that the Queen has no memory, other females might put in claims to the same privilege, and society would become a chaos. Marriage vows, duties, affections, and all our nearest and dearest interests would be unhinged, and this pleasant state of being would degenerate into a moral, or rather an immoral, pandemonium. Keeping in view these all-important considerations, and more especially the imperativeness of the law, which does not admit of discretion, the court sentences you to be carried hence, without delay, to the centre of the great square, where your head will be severed from your body by the public executioner, without benefit of clergy; after which, your remains are to be consigned to the public hospitals for the purposes of dissection."

The words were scarcely out of Baron Longbeard's mouth, before both the Attorneys-General started up, to move the court in behalf of the separate dignities of their respective

principals. Mr. Attorney-General of the crown prayed the court so far to amend its sentence, as to give precedency to the punishment on account of the offence against the King; and Mr. Attorney-General for the Queen, to pray the court it would not be so far forgetful of her Majesty's rights and dignity, as to establish a precedent so destructive of both. I caught a glimpse of hope glancing about the eyes of my brother Downright, who, waiting just long enough to let the two advocates warm themselves over these points of law, arose and moved the court for a stay of execution, on the plea that neither sentence was legal; that delivered by my Lord Chief-Justice containing a contradiction, inasmuch as it ordered the decaudisation to take place between *the hours of sunrise and sunset*, and also *forthwith;* and that delivered by Baron Longbeard, on account of its ordering the body to be given up to dissection, contrary to the law, which merely made that provision in the case of con-

demned *monikins*, the prisoner at the bar being entirely of another species.

The court deemed all these objections serious, but decided on its own incompetency to take cognizance of them. It was a question for the twelve Judges, who were now on the point of assembling, and to whom they referred the whole affair on appeal. In the mean time, justice could not be stayed. The prisoner must be carried out into the square, and matters must proceed; but, should either of the points be finally determined in his favour, he could have the benefit of it, so far as circumstances would then allow. Hereupon, the court rose, and the judges, counsel, and clerks repaired in a body to the hall of the twelve Judges.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

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